

**Guidelines for enrolling in
MUS 470/471, Advanced Projects in Music,
or MUS 489/490, SYE: Independent Study**

If you wish to register for these courses, you cannot register through the APR system, but must submit a proposal to the department chair not later than 15 November (for projects to be undertaken in the coming spring semester) or 15 April (for projects to be undertaken in the fall semester). If the Department of Music approves your project, the registrar will then enroll you for the requested course.

Please include the following in your proposal.

TITLE and METHODOLOGY: Begin with a working title followed by a hypothesis. Several key issues arise. What aspect of the musical discipline, or what music culture, do you plan to study? You need to be specific. This needs to be a reasonable undertaking. It is not reasonable to compose and stage a musical, or to locate and analyze the musical activities of a group of Roma (gypsy) people here in the Northeast. Instead you might wish to prepare a lecture performance of a single work, to compose a small-scale musical work, to analyze the activities and aesthetics of a “bluegrass and old-time music” ensemble here in the North Country. It is important to think through, and to describe, every part of the process involved in doing your project, bearing in mind the fact that the project has to be brought to closure within the semester, or the end of the following semester for year-long projects. Possible considerations: Do you have the texts and music that you will need? What plans need to be put into place to do the fieldwork? Are there ethical or legal issues to consider? Where and how will you obtain the necessary equipment or time in the performance space?

RATIONALE and PREPARATION: Why is this work important? Describe your broader preparation for the project—e.g., coursework and other relevant work or study. Where does this work fit with regard to the work you have done to this point? The project needs to grow out of your academic work to date, and your proposal needs to show that the project is a continuation or expansion of that work. What is the intellectual frame for the project? Or, what is the system of organization that will move you through the project? Include a bibliography if you will be relying heavily on print sources and other media.

OUTCOME and EVALUATION: What is the expected outcome of the project? Please understand that a paper need not necessarily be the outcome. Even so, the project needs to include a public presentation of some type. Provide a description of how your work over the semester (or year) might be evaluated.

You should discuss the feasibility of your project in advance with a member of the Department of Music, preferably the person with whom you wish to undertake your project.

When you are ready to submit your proposal, please attach it to an e-mail message and send it to dhenderson@stlawu.edu.