

## **MUSIC 500 – *Research Techniques in Music***

**Tuesdays, 3:30-6pm**

**Summer 2011 (From June 21 to August 2)**

**Dr. Grace Tam**

**Course Description** This course is required for all first year students in the Master of Music in Choral Conducting program. It will cover these topics: qualitative/quantitative/interdisciplinary research, bibliography, citation styles, intentional reading, critical thinking, and scholarly writing.

**Course Objectives** By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Write in a style appropriate to scholarly/professional presentations of specific types of research and within the parameters specified.
- Write a research proposal describing a research question and why the research to be conducted would be of value to a wider community of music scholars.
- Write a review of literature on a topic of choice within one's own area of scholarly interest.
- Present the research proposal as a formal spoken paper typical of what is expected at scholarly research meetings.
- Give critique to the work of other students and provide suggestions about how that work might be improved.

**Supplemental Reference Texts** Students may find these useful. Buy online for the best price.

- Lanham, R. A. *Revising Prose, 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> ed.* New York: Macmillan.
- Holoman, D. K. (2008). *Writing About Music, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.* Berkeley: U of California Press.
- CSULA Music Dept. "Guidelines for the Preparation . . . Graduate Project (MUS599) . . ." —free. Obtain the pamphlet for the MM/Choral Conducting from the music office.

### **Useful Links**

- <<http://www.calstatela.edu/research/>>.
- CSULA. "Guide to Preparation of Master's Theses and Project Reports." Los Angeles, 1993. <<http://www.calstatela.edu/library/guides/thesbk.htm>>.
- CSULA University Library. "Research Survival Guide: An Online Information Literacy Tutorial." <<http://www.calstatela.edu/library/tutorial/toc.htm>>.

## Major Assignments

- **Research Article Review** (2 pages).
- **Topic** (1 page). Provide a topic paper that describes the focus of your research topic of interest and attach a preliminary bibliography.
- **Research Proposal** (5 to 6 pages). This is essentially a paper to introduce and state the need for the research study. Each thesis or dissertation begins with an introductory chapter that outlines the purpose for the research to be conducted and describes a research question. It also describes why the research you will be conducting would be of value to a wider community of music scholars.
- **Review of Literature Paper** (10 items), or **Annotated Bibliography** (20 items).
- **Formal Presentation** (3 pages). This is revised from your Research Proposal for a formal spoken presentation. It will be read aloud to the class. Peers will evaluate the presentation and the peer evaluation will be used to determine the final grade for this presentation.

(Paper should have 1" margins and be formatted in 12 point Times Roman Font, double-spaced.)

**Email**—You must have an email address and Internet access for class communications. To make full use of library resources off-campus, you will be given a (free) **NIS account** (ITS Help Desk, Palmer Wing Library, Lobby).