

MUU44021 Music & Climate: Assessment

Overview

Assessment of this module is as follows:

Assignment	Word count	Weighting	Due
Essay Topic	100	5%	Week 6 – noon Thurs 27 th Feb
Presentation	N/A	20%	Week 8 – noon Mon 10 th March
Essay	1200	55%	Week 10 – noon Mon 24 th March
Viva	N/A	20%	Week 12 – noon Tues 8 th April

While there are assessment-specific criteria, overall criteria can be found in the Marking Scale section of the *Department of Music Undergraduate Handbook* (available on Blackboard under Module Info).

Late work will not be accepted unless it is covered by a medical certificate or other legitimate certification, such as a tutor's letter. Please see the handbook for further details. If Blackboard poses issues, email the assignment in question to [email address] by noon as evidence you have met the deadline, and upload the work to Blackboard afterwards ASAP.

Written work must be submitted via [Blackboard](#). Submission can be made through the Assessments section. A broader view of Blackboard's assessment facility can be found [here](#). Upload work as either Word documents (.doc or .docx) or PDFs (not .pages).

Assessment

Essay Topic

You are welcome to devise your own essay topic or answer on a set topic. Please see the Essay section below for more information.

Please upload your topic to Blackboard regardless of whether it is original or drawn from the set options. See also the Regulations section under Essays below.

Presentation

Based on your research for your essay, taking place Week 8 (11th March). Duration: 5 minutes + 1 minute Q&A.

Timetable

Name	Time
	11:00-11:07
	11:07-11:14
	11:14-11:21
	11:21-11:28
	11:28-11:35
	11:35-11:42
	11:42-11:49
	13:00-13:07
	13:07-13:14

	13:14-13:21
	13:21-13:28
	13:28-13:35
	13:35-13:42

Marking Criteria

Marks are awarded for delivery of the presentation, rather than submission of the preparatory material. The presentation will be marked according to: a) the content of the presentation, b) the use of PowerPoint, c) spoken delivery and d) fluency with technology.

Several aspects will factor into the overall mark, among them the presence of the following:

- Logical structure, properly introduced
- Clearly states the purpose, problem/question and outcome
- Material remains relevant, both orally and visually
- Reasoning: logical argument, apt evidence, sound conclusion
- Offers supporting evidence throughout
- Relevant academic authorities quoted and referenced
- Evidence of wide reading and comprehension of the material
- Legible font and text size
- Reasonable quantities of data per slide with proportionate slide duration
- Measured use of transitions, animations, effects etc.
- Use of high-resolution image and audio files where relevant
- Audio-visual files pre-integrated and/or timestamped links embedded in slides
- Smooth transitions between speech, clips, slides, and programmes
- Conveys enthusiasm and motivation
- Assured and at ease with content
- Speech well-paced
- Personal notes are unobtrusive and facilitate delivery
- Addresses questions with clear and precise responses, demonstrating a thorough understanding

While not all criteria will apply to each presentation, those that are relevant will contribute to the apportioning of marks. The Department of Music Undergraduate Handbook provides further criteria for content.

Guidelines

- Only 4–5 slides are necessary, inclusive of the title slide and bibliographic slide.
- Embedding (brief) audio and/or video clips is recommended (versus links to external apps).
- Before starting work, it is worthwhile establishing your thesis statement / primary argument. Advice can be found [here](#) and [here](#).
- Further advice can be found in the Presentations section on Blackboard.

Regulations

Approach citation in the slides with the same rigour as you would in an essay. Dedicate one slide to the bibliography.

Presentation slides must be submitted in advance of the presentation. Send completed PowerPoint presentations by email to [email address]. Use Microsoft PowerPoint (extension .pptx) only. Please include 'Music & Climate Presentation' in the email subject line. Send the email **no later than 12 noon the day before your presentation**. Slides submitted late result in forfeiture of 25% of the marks.

Essay

Own Topic

If you decide your own topic, it should...

- Stay within the remit of the lectures
- Include specific language that encapsulates what action will be taken and the topic under discussion.

A PDF in the Assessment section on Blackboard provides additional advice.

Set Topic

If you would prefer to answer on a set topic, you may use any one of the following choices.

- To what extent has the music industry embraced sustainable practices, and what barriers must be overcome to achieve greater environmental responsibility within the industry?
- What ethical considerations must musicians and record labels take into account when balancing their artistic pursuits with environmental concerns, and how can they navigate these tensions effectively?
- How have music festivals responded to concerns about environmental impact, and what are the trade-offs between sustainability goals and commercial imperatives in the festival industry?
- How do musical elements contribute to communicating or conveying the theme of climate change and/or sustainability in a given work or series of works? In what ways do these elements enhance or detract from the intended message?
- Compare and contrast how different genres of music approach the topic of climate change and sustainability.
- Critically analyse the efficacy of music as a tool for raising awareness about climate change and sustainability. In what ways does music succeed or fall short as a means of promoting environmental activism?
- Evaluate the potential impact of music education on promoting environmental stewardship among young people. What evidence exists to support this claim, and what obstacles must be overcome to effectively integrate sustainability into music curricula?
- Assess the environmental impact of music technology, and evaluate the extent to which advances in technology can help mitigate or exacerbate sustainability challenges within the industry.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of existing efforts to reduce the carbon footprint of music tours and concerts. What strategies have been successful, and what additional measures could be implemented to achieve greater environmental responsibility within the industry?
- Critically evaluate the potential for music to promote cross-cultural exchange and global cooperation on issues of climate change and sustainability. What challenges must be overcome to realise this potential, and how can music be leveraged as a tool for social change on a global scale?

Advice

- Consult the Essay Writing section on Blackboard. Herbert's *Music in Words: A Guide to Researching and Writing about Music* (Oxford: OUP, 2009), 17–23 is particularly useful when formulating your essay plan.
- Some additional resources for this assessment include:
 - Purdue OWL's [Argumentative Essays](#)
 - Grammarly's [How to Write a Standout Argumentative Essay](#)

- The University of Toledo's [Argumentative Essay/Commentary](#)
- Support your answer with references to at least five academic sources. These may include single-author books, multi-author books, academic journals, and *Oxford Music Online*. Do not use blogs or commercial websites without adequate cause.
- The essay does not need to adhere rigidly to the presentation. However, I strongly recommend using the research done towards the presentation as the foundation for the essay.

Style and Presentation

Font	Sans serif, e.g., Calibri, Verdana, Aptos, or Arial
Font size	12pt for the main body, 10pt for footnotes
Font colour	Black
Line spacing	1.5 for the main body, single for footnotes and bibliography
Citation style	<i>Chicago Manual of Style (CMS)</i> notes and bibliography system
Margins	2.54cm (MS Word's default)

Marking criteria

Higher marks are awarded for: cognizance of the assumptions underlying the thesis; specific examples; sensible sequencing of points; fidelity to the essay topic; correct formatting; precise use of terms; depth of research.

Regulations

The word count may go over or under the limit by 10%, and should exclude the module title, student's name, footnotes, bibliography, etc. Include the original question, page numbers in the header or footer, and the word count.

The following information must be on the first page of your submitted work:

1. Student name
2. Student ID number
3. Current year of standing
4. Course title
5. Assessment number
6. Lecturer's name.

Student Declaration

I have read and I understand the plagiarism provisions in the General Regulations of the University Calendar for this current academic year outlined at <https://www.tcd.ie/calendar>.

I have also completed the Online Tutorial on avoiding plagiarism 'Ready, Steady, Write', located at https://www.tcd.ie/library/support/plagiarism/story_html5.html.

Viva

A viva voce examination constitutes an oral defence of your essay. Further details can be found in the viva preparation PDF on Blackboard (in the Assessments section).

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If you have questions about any aspect of the assessment procedure, please do not hesitate to contact me at [email address]

Signature