

## **MUS 697 – Culminating Experience Paper 1 credit**

Supervisor: Dr. Eugenie Burkett  
Office: 240 HFA

Telephone: 895-1206  
E-mail: [eugenie.burkett@unlv.edu](mailto:eugenie.burkett@unlv.edu)

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Designed for student completing the Master's of Music – Graduate Licensure Program (M.M.) program.

**Prerequisite:** All coursework for completion of the degree.

### **COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:**

The culminating experience paper as described below is designed for students in the Master's of Music (M.M.) Graduate Licensure Program. The paper gives students the opportunity to demonstrate the depth and breadth of knowledge acquired in their major emphasis concentration area and to link such knowledge to teaching practice. In particular, students need to be able to:

1. Synthesize theories, concepts, and information that they learned throughout their program of study
2. Situate their synthesis in the professional literature
3. Connect their learning to teaching practice
4. Communicate what they learned and their connections to practice through professional writing

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

The question for the culminating experience paper and the evaluation rubric are consistent with the following propositions of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS):

- Proposition #1: teachers are committed to students and their learning
- Proposition #2: teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to students
- Proposition #3: teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning
- Proposition #4: teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience
- Proposition #5: teachers are members of learning communities

In addition, the paper addresses coursework in curriculum, instructional strategies, classroom management, multicultural education, and educational foundations as well as students' content area. The paper also asks students to reference relevant research literature, personal experiences, beliefs, and teaching practice in the response.

**PROCESS:** Students who plan to take the culminating experience need to enroll in MUS 697 for 1 credit semester hour during the semester in which they plan to graduate. As students start their one credit hour seminar, MUS 697, they should meet with their advisor to discuss the issues relevant to their question and ultimately determine curricular area(s) for their question as well as the contexts of school, grade level, students in which their papers are situated.

The paper from each student should be submitted to the advisor **no later** than the C&I Department's posted deadlines: November 1, April 1 or July 1. **Two** copies of the paper should be submitted to the advisor.

### EVALUATION:

Once the paper is submitted, a minimum of one faculty member in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction will review the student's paper. For papers with questionable or marginal merit, at least two additional faculty will review the papers. Academic faculty will read and rate the paper according to the following rubric. Alternatively, the paper may be submitted electronically to the advisor.

STANDARDS LEVELS ↓ →	Theory into Practice	Professional Philosophy	Conduct and/or Evaluate Research	Content and Pedagogical Knowledge	Professional Standard Knowledge	Presentation and Format
Distinguished (3)						
Proficient (2)						
Marginal (1)						
Unacceptable (0)						

Faculty reviewers will complete the cells of the Culminating Experience Scoring Rubric with language specific to the project required of students in that area independently. The following list of descriptors is intended to help each group consistently distinguish among the performance levels so that as a department we have comparable rigor.

#### DISTINGUISHED (3)

- exceeds expectations
- multiple layers of connected and convincing evidence
- exceptional performance
- communicates distinctively and authoritatively
- proposes original and creative solutions

#### PROFICIENT (2)

- meets expectations
- multiple sources of clear evidence
- satisfactory performance
- communicates accurately
- presents a clear and convincing argument

#### MARGINAL (1)

- meets minimum expectations
- provides some evidence
- limited performance

- demonstrates limited ability to communicate ideas in writing
- presents partial or faulty argument

#### UNACCEPTABLE (0)

- does not meet expectations
- provides little or no evidence
- insufficient or incomplete performance
- exhibits numerous errors in writing that disrupt meaning
- presents unsupported, incoherent argument

#### Total Score:

- **S (Satisfactory) or PASS: Total score  $\geq 12$  with no score = 0.**
- **NO PASS TO PASS: Total score  $\geq 8$  and  $< 12$  for NO PASS.**  
Revise and resubmit on or before the Friday of the last week in instruction.  
Total score  $\geq 12$  with no score = 0 for PASS; total score  $< 12$  for FAIL.
- **FAIL: Total score  $< 8$  FAIL.**

Students must receive an *S (Satisfactory) or Pass* on the culminating experience. Those who pass the culminating experience will receive a mailed copy of the final culminating experience form for advanced degree from the C&I graduate studies office.

If a student receives a *No Pass to Pass* for the culminating experience paper, he or she will have an oral defense or revise and resubmit the whole paper on or before the Friday of the last week in instruction. Total score must be score  $\geq 12$  with no score = 0 for PASS after oral defense or revision of his or her paper.

When a student receive a *No Pass* grade for the culminating experience paper, he or she must retake the entire culminating experience in the following semester by following all the process described above. The advisor will decide on the content of the question.

**Academic Misconduct**—Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution.

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the *Student Academic Misconduct Policy* (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

**Copyright**—The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

**Disability Resource Center (DRC)**—The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

**Religious Holidays Policy**—Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor **within** the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or **within** the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531>.

**Transparency in Learning and Teaching**—The University encourages application of the transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information:

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning>

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency>

**Incomplete Grades**—The grade of I—Incomplete—can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student's control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving "I" grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

### Library Resources

Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the subject librarian is

[https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians\\_by\\_subject](https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject). UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students' access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.

**Tutoring and Coaching**—The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit <http://www.unlv.edu/asc> or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

**UNLV Writing Center**—One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>.

**Rebelmail**—By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV's official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students' e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always [@unlv.nevada.edu](mailto:@unlv.nevada.edu). **Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.**

**Final Examinations**—The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

**Any other class specific information**—(e.g., absences, make-up exams, status reporting, extra credit policies, plagiarism/cheating consequences, policy on electronic devices, specialized department or college tutoring programs, bringing children to class, policy on recording classroom lectures, etc.)