

### Optional Essay Questions

1. “World Music”: discuss.
2. Choose a sound recording that you passionately dislike. To the best of your ability, undertake a socio-cultural analysis of the recording, and undertake a critical analysis of your reaction to it, before, during, and at the end of this piece of work. Then, choose a sound recording that would normally strike you as “exotic”, and about which you know little or nothing. To the best of your ability, undertake a socio-cultural analysis of the recording, and undertake a critical analysis of your reaction to it, before, during, and at the end of this piece of work. Compare your experience undertaking an analysis of both.
3. You have been hired to produce a World Music Festival. Bearing in mind some of the representational and ethical issues that have been raised in class, describe and justify the rationale for your festival, and discuss your criteria for act selection, your marketing strategies, and your guiding principles for the public relations team.
4. Approach someone you know who is skilled at playing an instrument or singing, whether they do so casually or professionally, and ask them if they would consent to be interviewed for a class assignment in ethnomusicology. Use this interview as the basis for an analysis of some of the themes, issues, or questions raised in class.
5. Provide a critical analysis of any of the videos shown during class.
6. You have been contractually obligated to design and teach an undergraduate World Music course to non-music students. Outline your course rationale, discuss how it might relate to the expectations of students, and discuss some of the challenges that you think you might face in teaching such a course.
7. “The world of world music has no boundaries, therefore access to world music is open to all. There’s ample justification to call just about anything world music” (Bohlman). Undertake a critical analysis of this statement in relation to themes raised in class.
8. Using five websites as evidence, critically analyze some of the ways which people talk about and conceptualize “world music” in professional marketing contexts.
9. “If we want to understand the different musics of the world ... we need to understand them on their own terms – that is, as the various music-cultures themselves do. We also need a way to talk about music as a whole without imposing ideas of music inappropriately. To start, we can ask whether there is something about music common to all music-cultures, whether the people in those cultures are aware of it or not” (Titon). Undertake a critical analysis of this statement in relation to themes raised in class.
10. “The whole of world music may come into view because of an ability to focus on and perceive one meaningful part” (Bohlman). Undertake a critical analysis of this statement in relation to themes raised in class.
11. “... music represents a great human force that transcends narrow political, social, and temporal boundaries” (Titon). Undertake a critical analysis of this statement in relation to themes raised in class.

### Thought Piece Suggestions

(For those who want direction)

Undertake one of or a mixture of the following:

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| A poem                              | A carving  |
| A song                              | A painting (that somehow includes the required number of words)                  |
| A dramatic sketch/performance piece | An instrumental composition (that somehow includes the required number of words) |
| A three minute film                 |  |
| A sculpture                         |  |

A piece of prose  
A sound collage

An animation

that explores any or some or all of the following themes:

1. Sound
2. Exotic Sounds
3. Exotic Sounds at Home
4. Sound and Otherness
5. Sound and Sameness
6. Sound and Power
7. Sounds and Wonder
8. Sounds and Politics
9. Sounds and Deception
10. Sounds and Psychology
11. How and why sound is important to me
12. What "music" means to me
13. What "World Music" meant or means to me
14. Sounds so near and yet so far
15. Sounds so far and yet so near
16. How I have participated in Music 17