Grading for Lecture-Recitals - Dr. McLamore

The majority of your grade for MU 461: Senior Project is based upon your **working methods**, since I will not approve a final version of your script until it is at an A or high B level (meaning it is accurate, grammatical, and interesting). Needing to go through multiple drafts to arrive at a polished final product is not—in itself—a problem, but **if writing, research, or analytical problems identified in early drafts persist in subsequent drafts**, this unresponsiveness will hurt your grade. I do not have the time or patience to mark the same errors—or ask the same questions—over and over again; if I have to do so, your grade will be penalized. **For every three items that have to be marked more than once, your grade will drop half a grade, i.e., from an A to an A-, or an A- to a B+, and so forth.**

**More crucial is your timetable.** All deadlines will be established **BY YOU** (I retain veto power, though)—with the exception of the **complete first draft, which is due no less than six weeks before your prerecital**, which in turn is scheduled 4-6 weeks before your proposed recital date. It would be best to plan on the six-week margin, which means that the first draft of the full script is due 3 months before your actual recital.

Therefore, you can control the timetable to suit your own schedule, but with the inflexible deadline of “first script 3 months prior to your recital" in mind. **Your first task is to fill out the Lecture-Recital Timetable**—and **stick to it!** Unexpected things may happen—illness, family emergencies—and "due dates" can be adjusted accordingly if I am notified promptly. Overall, though, **you** are responsible for meeting all deadlines. One missed deadline will not affect your grade; each subsequent occurrence of a late submission will pull down your grade by a third of a letter as well (A to A- to B+ to B, etc.)

Furthermore, I make the following grading stipulations:

- **Not only do you need to write an effective script, but you have to practice it!** If your delivery is not fluid and error-free by at least **ONE WEEK BEFORE YOUR PRERECITAL**, I reserve the right to cancel your prerecital. In this situation, the highest grade you will earn in MU 461 will be a C, unless we agree that there are extenuating circumstances that forced the cancellation. When you can deliver your script in a persuasive fashion, your prerecital will then be rescheduled; the lecture-recital itself may have to be rescheduled so that it falls no sooner than 4 weeks after the prerecital.

- **Lastly: you need to be prompt in getting your printed materials (the program page, translations if required, and the optional program notes and acknowledgements) to Michele after passing your prerecital, AND in responding to her subsequent requests for input.** Delays at this stage will also hurt your grade.

Please talk to me if you have any questions about grading or the script-writing process. Truly, I believe that **preparing a lecture-recital can be enjoyable and illuminating** if you start and work on it early enough; I will be doing my best to help you produce a project that will make you proud. **You should easily earn an "A" if you:**

1) **meet all deadlines, and**
2) **correct all errors and diligently seek answers to all questions asked, and**
3) **strive to write interesting, accurate, and noteworthy commentary about your topic.**