LAS 103X Music in Virtual Reality
What to Include in your Course Journal and How to Put It Together
Thursday January 31, 2008

You are to keep a journal for this class. The purpose of the journal is to formalize your thinking about the subject of the class, and to allow your instructor to evaluate your level of effort. The syllabus provides that the journal itself will be worth 40% of your course grade.

The journal must be in one of two forms: a Microsoft Word document or a web page. The workstation and software for production of these is available in the music computer lab and in other labs across campus. You may also have the appropriate software on your personal computer. The reason an electronic document is required is that some research of web sites is necessary for the course, and your journal needs to have hot links to these for a reader of your journal (which may be just your instructor) to use.

Creating the electronic document is not difficult. We will have a workshop in this for those who need instruction (or to prove it works) for the final 20 minutes of today’s class meeting.

What to include

The journal includes your notes from class meetings. These should cover the main subjects and should be expanded with your own objective thoughts, questions, and ideas. The notes are therefore something beyond just your in-class notes, they should be amplified as you write your journal.

Also, your notes from assigned readings, all of which are from web resources, will be included in your journal. These primarily will be bibliographic summaries, but may also include your own thoughts, questions, and ideas. Where you branch out independently using new links, you should to include these links with your discussion—guide the reader through connection the source of the information to your notes.
How to Put it Together: Option I, Microsoft Word

In this form, you type your notes into the word document. When there is a link to be made, first type out the name of the web page, then select this and use Insert>Hyperlink copy the web address from the browser, and paste it into the window for the hyperlink. The dialog for this will look something like below, depending on the version of Word:

Once you OK this, the text will appear underlined in your document. When someone opens the document later to read it, they can click on this and a web browser will open with the linked web page.

This form of Journal you can turn in by dragging in to your 103X-Drop folder. You will not be able to see the results of this, as you have just “write only” privileges for this folder, but you have turned it in.

How to Put it Together: Option II, Dreamweaver

The music lab also has a web page application, Dreamweaver 8. You can launch this from the Internet Applications folder in your dock. You open a new (or previous) HTML document and then type your notes into it. When you want to create a link, it is similar to that described above: select the text and then find the Link window in the properties window, simply pasting in the address you copy from the browser.

You can also put in pictures (Insert>Image) and set properties for the document (Modify>Page Properties…) like the text and background color.

This soft of web page you can upload to your own university web space and just send me the URL. See the document StudentWebUpload in the course web site for how to do this.