

**LAS 103X 5: Music in Virtual Reality**  
**Guidelines and Schedule for Student Research Unit**

Over the remaining three weeks of the semester you will gather into research groups around a topic introduced earlier in the semester. The general goal of this final unit of study is to acquire experience in focused research and critical writing. The specific goal is to deepen the investigation of a particular topic beyond the introduction given in class.

This is the portion of the course where your role becomes much more active and your responsibility is greater. Earlier, you responded to lectures, demonstrations, and readings with reporting and commentary in your journals. The material, as it were, was provided to you. Now, you will

- create a focused *research question*,
- investigate sources of information yourself,
- report on them in your journal
- contribute to your research team’s panel discussion, and
- (individually) write a 5-8 page term paper on the research topic

The form taken by this unit balances team effort with individual responsibility. Your own term paper taken from the research of your team should use the sources and ideas developed by the entire team, the shared effort, but should be entirely your own critical report on the findings.

Thursday, April 10	Receive guidelines, select your research team membership according to common interest on a topic. Select a Panel Facilitator, whose job it is to coordinate meetings and communicate on behalf of the research team.
<b>Monday, April 14</b> <i>by 3pm</i>	Officially declare your panel membership via email to <a href="mailto:hopkinsc@iastate.edu">hopkinsc@iastate.edu</a> . Panel facilitators should identify themselves in this declaration and confirm their research group membership.
(prior to Thursday)	Meet in your research teams to share initial resources, divide responsibilities, and develop a draft of the subject outline for your May 1 presentation
Thursday April 17	Workshop/Discussion: research teams present their resources and subject outline.
(during the week)	Meet in your research teams to refine and/or extend sources, ideas, critical questions, and propose supporting new questions. <i>At this point it is still fine to enlarge the search for resources and develop some new questions.</i>
Thursday April 24	VRAC Tour.
(early in the week)	Meet in your research teams to <b>narrow and select</b> the best sources, ideas, critical questions. <i>At this point you should <u>no longer enlarge the research</u> but rather focus on the <b>critical report</b>.</i>
<b>Thursday May 1</b>	<b>Panel Discussions:</b> research teams discuss/show the results of their research.
<b>Monday May 5</b> by 4pm	Individual portfolios due. These include the Term Paper and final submission of the Journal (complete). Dr. Hopkins will be available to check your portfolio for completeness.