Undergraduate Research in the CSUS School of Music
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Project Goals
Develop a program of undergraduate music history research in the CSUS School of Music
1. Oversee curricular changes that foster undergraduate research
2. Build three new research-based courses on topics of social significance: Music in Times of War, Women in Western Music-Making, Collaborations in Music and Dance
3. Work with library to acquire online research materials
4. Join Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR)
5. Participate in 2014-15 Faculty Learning Community on Undergrad Research
6. Establish annual School of Music research symposium and awards
7. Write an article on results of teaching research and writing in music

School of Music Program Change
1. MUSC 110: Capstone research course
2. Follows three semesters of study in the history and literature of music
3. Writing Intensive for Music Majors
4. Students conduct primary source research in topics-based seminar
5. Students learn methodologies and conventions of musicological research and writing.
6. Students present research at annual symposium

New Courses
Music in Times of War
This course will approach the study of music history through the social, political, cultural, and aesthetic contexts of music in times of war. Music forms both an agent of human warfare and a lens through which we can better understand its impacts in human history. Whether to organize troops on the field, advance various nationalist, patriotic, and pacifist ideologies, boost morale, celebrate victories, or memorialize the fallen, music offers a vital means through which we can understand this aspect of human history. With an emphasis on research and writing, this course gives students experience with primary source research and writing in the field of musicology.

Women in Western Music-Making
This course will approach the study of music through the contributions of women to Western European/American musical life. Long excluded from the work of music composition, women were active as teachers, performers, arrangers, patrons, and critics of music. Focus on these aspects of music making shifts the object of study from the composer and the musical score to areas of musical life traditionally neglected in academic study: the social, political, and economic contexts in which the act of making music occurs. The Concerto della donna in 16th-century Ferrara, the 18th-century French salonière, the 19th-century American community concert series, the conducting and teaching of Nadia Boulanger, and the “all-girl” bands of the 1940s are just a few examples of the roles women played in the musical life of their times. With an emphasis on research and writing, this course gives students experience with primary source research and writing in the field of musicology.

Collaborations in Music and Dance
This course will approach the study of music in the context of its deep connection to human movement, acknowledging what is often lost in evaluations of music as a “listening only” concert activity. From aristocratic French social dance in Haydn’s symphonies to the ballets of Igor Stravinsky to Ellington’s “jungle music” for the Cotton Club, students will search for the formal and physical connections to dance in the Western European/American musical canon. With an emphasis on research and writing, this course gives students experience with primary source research and writing in the field of musicology.

Significance of Project
A significant body of research has shown that engagement in original research and close mentorships with faculty increases rates of retention, graduation, and success in undergraduate’s transition to further education and careers, particularly for minority and first-generation college students. The CSU Graduation Initiative, which aims to raise graduation rates by eight percentage points by 2015-16 and reduce by half the existing gap in degree attainment by the CSU’s under-represented minority students, makes this kind of opportunity a critical component in the mission of the institution. Particularly for schools like CSUS that have a highly diverse student body, many of whom are first-generation students, the mentorship and disciplinary investment they experience through meaningful research opportunities becomes a significant factor in their timely progress toward a degree and successful transition to the next stage of their careers.

Music Research Symposium

2015/2016 IRA Grant for Undergraduate Research at CSUS
Priority # 1: Campus-wide Research Symposium ($9,000)
Priority #2: School of Music Research Symposium ($1000): This includes funding for two student research awards in the amount of $250 each for the outstanding undergraduate and graduate student presenters ($500 total) and $500 for promotional materials.

Council on Undergraduate Research Publications

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