Definition:
A musical ethnography is a written representation, description and interpretation of a music-culture. Your project must include a significant written component (exact length tba), and may be supplemented with photographs, recording, and video. Your project will be based on fieldwork (research “in the field”), and may also include library and Internet research.

Purpose:
To document some aspect of a nearby music-culture and to interpret it based on the topic you have chosen. Choose something you are interested in, and choose something you have access to. A successful musical ethnography “provides the experience of puzzling out one’s way to understanding an unfamiliar music and makes an original contribution to knowledge.” (Titon, 381)

“The heart of your topic is your own interpretation of the material in light of the topic you have chosen. The answers to your questions should lead you to your main point, or the thesis of your interpretation.” (Titon, 371)

Some Examples of Ways to find a Subject and Topic:
1. Chart the music you hear daily.
2. Examine the music in your own background.
3. Explore music in your community.
4. Concentrate on an individual musician’s life, opinions, and music.

Some Examples from the textbook: (Titon, 370-371)

Due Week 4: Preliminary Proposal
- Submit a proposal describing your subject and topic, how you chose them, how you will begin your research, and some preliminary questions you have. (250 words)

Due Week: Final Proposal
- Submit a final proposal describing your subject, topic and refined thematic question plus supplementary questions and strategies for your research. (250 words)

Due Week 10: Status Report
- Submit a status report detailing the work you have done thus far and the work that still needs to be completed. (250 words)