

# Music Language Studies 6 – History

**Date due:** Study Week (Friday Nov.5, 4pm).

**Value:** 70%

Write a 3000-4000 word (6-8 page) essay researching one of four given topics:

1	Drones in Indian music. Discuss the role of the ever-present drone in Indian music, and how it effects instrument design, performance technique, performance practice, and the adoption of new instruments into Indian music-making. Consider the varieties of note combinations that make up a drone, the acoustic effect of drones, and their role in creating stability and tension.
2	<i>Raga</i> and <i>rasa</i> – mood in music. Discuss the elements that portray themselves as <i>rasa</i> in Indian classical music, and survey different <i>ragas</i> in terms of their role and place in the seasons, rituals, and times of the day.
3	What is a <i>raga</i> ? Trace the origins of the modal system of Indian music from Vedic times to the present day. Describe the elements of the ancient chants and how they play a role even in Indian music today, and identify chief developments over time as documented in historical treatises.
4	Time in Indian music. Describe the unique temporal approaches to organizing sound in Indian music, and compare them with Western approaches. Examine the different <i>talas</i> and their concept of beat organization/hierarchy, application and aural effect. Consider the early concept of time in Ancient India and philosophical thought, and how this influenced the development of the temporal approaches to organizing sound to the present day.