For this assignment, I chose to go to a music class because the music building is located right across the street from my dorm and I had never actually looked at it with detail or gone inside. I attended a Music 133 lecture with Professor Faux in the auditorium of the Music Building and was utterly confused when first entering. On my campus map, you can see I have included a variety of buildings and places I visit right around the Music Building. General Eccentric is a store I frequently shop at, Bai Thai is a restaurant I love to eat at and I tan at Classic Tan at least three times a week. Nonetheless, the Music Building had always been just “that thing” in between all my important stops. The only time I ever even thought about it was when my roommate had to leave to practice her viola in the Music Building. Otherwise, I considered it a “fill-in” on campus, somewhere where the artsy music types went so that their music would not annoy the rest of the students on campus.

Upon entering the building I was overwhelmed by these huge doors that had ‘auditorium’ written across them. As I walked the corridors, I realized that there were lockers on almost every wall. There was even a short corridor with only lockers and a dead end. The color of the lockers stuck out the most because they were dirty, muggy oranges, yellows and greens. The entire scene reminded me of a cheesy 1960’s high school. I was surprised to see that there were very few students walking around, mostly older individuals such as faculty and professors. The few students that I did see were carrying very large instrument cases on their backs or where dressed up in ties and skirts for recitals. It struck me as odd that students at this university have so much dedication
to the music program. I always understood that people were dedicated to studying and getting good grades but not to the extent where they carry giant instruments everywhere they go and dress in things other than their pajamas for recitals.

In the actual lecture room, I was surprised to see that there was a grand piano at the bottom where the teacher stood presenting his lecture. The presence of it there made the class automatically seem so much more sophisticated and important than anything I attended. In addition, a large projector screen was hanging on the wall, with the projector on, but the professor never used it once. Instead, he mainly played clips of music off the speakers. What also surprised me was that I felt more comfortable in the large lecture hall than I had outside of it because most people were using their laptops to play on Facebook, were doing crossword puzzles, or were sleeping. The students in the actual lecture room did not seem to be taking the class very seriously. Some odd things that stuck out to me were a student literally taking notes on a music stand without a chair as well as the ceiling which was filled with large triangular tiles. In addition, the room had a large quantity of lighting fixtures but the room itself was relatively dark. It seemed that if there were to be a class in a large assembly hall, the teachers would turn on as many lights as possible so that all the students can take notes. Instead, it seemed almost like the professor was trying to create a serene environment so the students could soak in the musical experience. At point, I looked around the classroom from the back of the room and it seemed like the entire class was in a deep trance as some bluegrass music played in the background.

The class itself was not very interesting. I walked in and the professor began with an example of a Johnny Cash song which I thought would hold my interest but then he
began lecturing about bluegrass and alternative country which lost my interest. The material was not all too difficult, they were mainly discussing the evolution of music during the 1950’s and the theories of music as they were understood back then but I could not find the motivation to concentrate on the information. The professor spoke in a very soft spoken way and seemed to really enjoy the topics but did not understand how to get the class involved in the process. At one point he claimed he was trying to express “life through music” which really grabbed my attention because it made me realize how much of life these people related to this major. I never realized how much the people around me tend to do the same things; we relate life to science in about everything we do as well. Overall, although I felt a little judged by the people walking around with instruments, I think I would have probably enjoyed the class more had I paid attention and known some of the people. It seems to me I felt a little but out of place but if I had the time and chance I could really get to like the people there as well as the class within in the building. It definitely felt odd to be in a place that I’ve never been to before but I realized that those students categorize and organize their lives similarly to everyone else on campus; they just do it with instruments. I also realized doing this assignment that sometimes the things that seem the most irrelevant on campus actually have the most going on inside them, and therefore it’s very critical that students explore all that this campus has to offer. I’m not necessarily sure I would attend that class again but I definitely would be willing to go attend others and see if they happen to spark an interest in me that I didn’t even know I had.