



University of Nevada, Reno

## Fall 2010 Weekend Class Syllabus

### MUS 431 Exploring World Music

**Department:** Music

**Instructor:** Sharon Hickox-Young

**Number of Credits:** 3

#### Catalog Description:

Music and human culture focusing on non-Core Humanities. Representative societies explored. Field study, music-making projects, performance analysis required. (General capstone and diversity course.) (Formerly MUS 321; implemented Fall 2004.)

#### Principal Goals/Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, you will have

- increased your awareness of music as an activity that shapes the images and ideals through which individuals understand themselves and their relationship to a broader world;
- improved your ability to identify song forms, instruments, ensemble types, and other aspects of music of non-Western cultures; and
- developed aural and visual skills necessary to achieve an analytical perspective on unfamiliar and perhaps some familiar musical forms.

#### Required Textbooks/Materials:

Nettle, Bruno, et al. *Excursions in World Music*, 5th ed. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2007. ISBN: 0131887858.

In addition to completing course readings, students will be required to listen to a number of music files. Music files will be played and discussed in class; however, if a student misses class, it is his or her responsibility to access these files. They will be placed on reserve at the UNR Knowledge Center, and made available through the library's online electronic reserve system, which can be accessed through the UNR Web page.

#### First Week's Assignments/Readings/Class Session:

*September 11:* Introduction to the course and syllabus

Key term definitions and other general musical concepts

Read: *Excursions in World Music* (pages 1–23)

Write: one- to two-page response (**written in class**) to the following:  
Should creative artists be free to adopt musical elements from other cultures, regardless of their cultural origins? Do such acquisitions bring with



them any new responsibilities regarding the original “owners” of the music? Is it homage, theft, or something else?

### **Course Details:**

This course hopes to achieve a sense of world travel and understanding of cultures through music while staying right here in Reno. Learning about different cultures provides the opportunity to not only learn about new places and people but also to learn a new perspective on our own personal culture and views. A basic understanding of music fundamentals will be taught so that even students without music backgrounds can succeed in this course.

### ***Assignments/Exams:***

***First Day Writing Assignment:*** There will be an in-class one- to two-page written response to the following questions: Should creative artists be free to adopt musical elements from other cultures, regardless of their cultural origins? Do such acquisitions bring with them any new responsibilities regarding the original “owners” of the music? Is it homage, theft, or something else?

***Paper 1:*** Using as a model that music is an activity with three fundamental aspects (sound, conception, and behavior), write a four- to five-page paper discussing some type of music in which you directly participate as a performer, consumer, listener, or critic. You may choose any type of music you wish, but it should represent at least one way in which you yourself participate.

***Final Paper/Presentation:*** You will write a five- to six-page paper on a topic of your choice. Topics should relate to material covered in class and must be approved by your instructor. You must use a minimum of two reference sources, and at least one should be a book or journal article. You will then present your paper to the class. You should basically summarize in detail the main points of your paper in an oral presentation. Please have audio and/or visual examples to enhance your presentation.

***Exams:*** There will be a midterm and a final exam, each worth 20 percent of your total grade. Each exam will be essay format.

***Late Assignments:*** Late assignments are accepted with penalty based on circumstance and time.

### ***Attendance/Participation:***

Attendance is vital for exploring this music, and success in this class cannot be achieved without regular attendance. Classes include discussion, DVDs, videos, guest performers, lecture, and listening, all of which are very important for writing successful exams and papers. If you are absent you will have to watch and listen to missed material on your own time. These materials will be available in the Knowledge Center.



**Grading:**

The percent distribution and grading scale for the course are:

First Day Writing Assignment	5
Attendance/Participation	10
Midterm	20
Paper 1	20
Final Paper/Presentation	25
Final Exam	20
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>

A	94-100%
A-	90-93%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%
D	64-66%
D-	60-63%
F	below 60%