

MUH 2051 Music Cultures of the World

Instructor: Megan MacDonald

Contact information:

Cmm10h@fsu.edu

Office Hours: 9:00-10:00 MWF in LOH 114

2:00-5:00 TH

Additional times by appointment

Please contact the TA for this course, Jane Doe, for any instructions regarding assignments: jd10j@fsu.edu

Class will meet in LOH 210 MWF @ 10:00 AM

Course Overview

The purpose of our class will be to make you aware of the rich musiculture of the globe. There is no way that a course could ever cover every type of music in the world so we are not going to try. In fact, we are not even going to try to listen to general representatives. Just as rap music is in no way similar to bluegrass, the music of every country is incredibly diverse. Instead, you should view the music that we listen to as window, and through this window you can catch a glimpse of what music is and means, how it affects and is affected by the culture in which it resides.

By using the Michael Bakan, *World Music: Traditions and Transformations* we will look at a few traditions from around the world, and how they have been brought from their own cultures to others and in the process, been transformed. While we will never truly understand these traditions, as independent, intelligent, thinking adults I expect every member of this class to approach these traditions with a respectful and open mind. If you come to this experience with an attitude of openness, there is no limit on what you may learn.

The class itself will be divided between lectures, discussion, and group projects. This division is to help facilitate the sharing of knowledge and ideas between the members of this class in the most efficient way. This is a conversation, not a soliloquy. As freethinking adults, I understand that each of you has a unique understanding of music and culture, and by listening to you I have no doubt I will learn new things. Please do not rob me of this opportunity. There will be random quizzes. They will be given at the beginning of class and will cover the material covered the previous class session. There will also be three random attendance checks, each which will be worth 1 point of extra credit. This could be enough to raise your grade a level. There will be 4 exams and two group projects. In addition to these assignments, you will have two types of writing assignments, both reflective in nature. Each of these will be discussed more in depth in the assignment section.

Course Resources

Bakan, Michael B. 2007. *World Music: Traditions and Transformations*. McGraw-Hill

Assignments

- Listening Journal: You will keep a journal. It can be on the computer, it can be in a notebook, what ever you feel comfortable with. Every week you will listen to three pieces of music and write down your thoughts. It can be anything from what the music makes you think or hear or what instruments are present. There are no restrictions or page limits. My only request is that you put thought into these journals. You will listen to one piece from the cds that accompany your textbook, one piece that you know already, and one new piece that you have never heard before. These will be collected on the last Friday of class and returned to you at the final.
- Essays: Every chapter will have a short essay (2-3 pages double spaced). You will focus on one listening from the chapter and discuss its significance. You will need to include the cultural context, the instrumentation and your own personal interpretation. As a second option, you may also research a different piece from the same geographical region.
- Exams: We will have four exams (including the final exam) over the course of the semester. Each will be made up of listening examples, multiple choice, and short essay questions.
- Group projects: You will do two group projects. The first will be to give a ten-minute presentation on a geographical area. We will sign up for these in a few weeks. The second you will go out into Tallahassee and find a musical experience. This could be a concert or a club, be creative. You will write a paper reflecting on the experience including a description of the culture surrounding the experience, the musical characteristics, the purpose, and a review.

Grading

Listening Journals: 5%

Exam 1: 10%

Exam 2: 10%

Exam 3: 10%

Final Exam: 20%

Group Project 1: 5%

Group Project 2: 5%

Papers: 30%

Quizzes: 5%

Course Policies:

You are expected to attend class in a timely manner. If you do not attend class you will not do well in the class. The lecture notes will not be posted online. Late work will not be accepted, except for in case of emergency or severe illness. Please see me in these situations. You are expected to be respectful of your classmates, the music we listen to, and myself. Disrespect will not be allowed in my classroom.

A word on Academic Honesty:

The academy is a community of individuals seeking knowledge, growth, and understanding. We come together to share our insights and our experiences and to learn. Essential to the functioning of the academy is respect for all members of the community, and for original, creative work in whatever form it takes.

The instructor assumes that all students understand the full meaning of the term *plagiarism*, and that it will not be tolerated in any form or for any reason, ignorance included. There is no situation in which presenting another's work or ideas as one's own is acceptable. None. Learn proper citation form. Benefit from the work of others but credit the originator of the idea. Familiarize yourself thoroughly with the University's Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://dof.fsu.edu/honorpolicy.htm>. All work for this course is expected to be original to and for this course and written solely by the individual student who claims authorship.

Academic honesty also involves the responsible use of library materials. Reserve materials are for the consultation of all students in a class and as such need to be available for all students. Hoarding, hiding, defacing, destroying, or making course materials unavailable to one's fellow students in any way will not be tolerated.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:

- (1) Register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and
- (2) Bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact

Student Disability Resource Center
97 Woodward Avenue, South
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu
<http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu>
850 644-9566 (voice)
850 644 8504 (TDD)

Course Calendar Fall 2011

Date	Topic/ Reading Assn.	Assn. Due
August 29	Syllabus	
August 31	Ch. 1& 2	
September 2	Ch. 3	
September 5	Ch. 4	
September 7	Ch. 5	
September 9	Ch. 6	Test Ch. 1-6
September 12	Ch. 7 Balinese Gamelan	
September 14		Group Presentation
September 16		Bali Paper
September 19	Ch. 8 Indian Music	
September 21		Group Presentation
September 23		India Paper
September 26	Ch. 9 Irish Music	
September 28		Group Presentation
September 30		Irish Paper
October 3	Ch. 10 West African Music	
October 5		Group Presentation
October 7		West Africa Paper, Exam 2
October 10	Ch. 11 Oye Como Va	
October 12		Group Presentation
October 14		Oye Como Va Paper
October 17	Ch. 12 Egypt Music	
October 19		Group Presentation
October 21		Egypt Paper
October 24	Ch. 13 Chinese Zheng	

October 26		Group Presentation
October 28		China Paper
October 31	Handout: North America	
November 2		Group Presentation
November 4		North America Paper
November 7	Handout: Oceania	
November 9		Group Presentation
November 11		Oceania Paper, Exam 3
November 14	Additional Music of Indonesia	
November 16	Additional Music of South Asia	
November 18	Additional Music of Europe	
November 21	Additional Music of Africa	
November 23	Additional Music of Middle East	
November 25	No Class	
November 28	Additional Music of East Asia	
November 30	Additional Music of North America	
December 2	Additional Music of Oceania	Due: Group Project 2 Listening Journals
December 4	Final Exam 10:00 AM, same room	