MUS 108: Music Cultures of the World

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Introduction

Is music a universal language? While music may be considered a “universal language,” by some, musical meaning is not. Music expresses both culturally conditioned responses and embodies social and cultural meaning. As we travel through the diverse landscape of world music, we will transform ourselves from a general listener to that of an “ethnomusicologist.” An ethnomusicologist is a person who not only studies music from around the world but experiences the music-cultures that surround his/her discoveries.

In a world where many cultures have no generic term for “music,” where music-making is frequently a community activity rather than that of a specialist, and where differences in world view are reflected in their “music-making,” the examination of non-Western music can be a valuable starting point in expanding our awareness of and appreciation for other cultures. This class is also an opportunity to hear non-western instruments, foreign languages, syntax and observe how music is often part of a larger cultural expression that includes dance, theater, art and spoken word and community gatherings.

This course is designed specifically for non-majors, and you do not have to be a musician or have musical training to succeed in the class.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Students will have an understanding of the characteristics that are central to the musics of different cultures and sub-cultures.

- Students will gain knowledge of the social and historical elements that have helped in the development and dissemination of music world-wide.

- Students will be able to distinguish several the sounds of music from different cultures, gaining an understanding of key concepts of the musics of different cultures.
● Students will be able to differentiate different instruments that are used in different cultures by sight and sound as well as the function of these instruments.

● Students will learn to go beyond “just listening music” and put the historical, biographical, sociological and musical knowledge they gain from reading materials and lectures to understand what they are listening.

Baccalaureate Core category - Cultural Diversity (CD)
Successful completion of this course partially fulfills OSU’s Baccalaureate Core requirements in the Perspectives category in the area of Cultural Diversity.

Learning Outcomes for Cultural Diversity
Students taking this course will:
1. Identify and analyze characteristics of a cultural tradition outside of European/American culture.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of how perspectives can change depending upon cultural or historical contexts.
3. Describe aspects of Non-Western culture that influence or contribute to global cultural, scientific, or social processes.

Textbook (Required)
Worlds of Music Shorter Version/Third Edition with 3 CDs
Jeff Todd Titon Editor

Weekly quizzes will be uploaded to the website by Monday of each week. They are due by the Sunday at 11:55 p.m. of each week. In addition to the material in the chapters, you will be responsible material covered in the study guides at the end of each chapter, which will be used in the quizzes. There is also an online site that has practice quizzes and other information you can use for each chapter. I encourage you to take advantage of the quizzes and other help. The internet address is.
http://www.wadsworth.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20bl&flag=instructor&product_isbn_issn=9780495570103&disciplinenumber=2

You can also get to it by going to www.cengage.com
Then follow the links to Higher Education, to Humanities, to Music, to World Music, to the text, and then to the companion site. Then bookmark it for future use.
GRADING POLICY:
Tests, assignments and discussions contribute to the final grades as follows:

Weekly quizzes 50%
Weekly discussion participation 25%
Individual Field Study Project 25%
Extra Credit 3%

Quizzes
There will be 7 weekly quizzes. They are to be taken at one sitting and you have an hour to complete the work. There will be between 10-20 questions each week. The quiz is not open book so please prepare accordingly. Students can substitute one 2-3 page live world music concert report for one of the quizzes. Please attend the concert and discuss how the music relates to world music in some way! Must be completed by Wednesday of Week 10. Please double check with instructor in advance about your musical choice.

Discussion Board

There will be 9 discussion board assignments worth 20 points.
In addition to weekly quizzes, students are required to make at least 2 posts per week on the discussion board. Responses to the weekly questions are due Saturday by 11:55PM weekly. At least one post is due by Wednesday at 11:55PM. Students will be required to contribute their own observations and questions about weekly assigned questions and/or web links relevant to the Unit being studied. Every student is required to participate significantly in these discussions. Simply summarizing what’s on the link is usually not enough of a contribution. Think a minimum of 3 sentences (per question). Please try to respond during the week rather than waiting until Saturday night to contribute.
The discussion board is an opportunity for students to engage with one another during the week about the various topics and materials. Grading will be based on both the quality and quantity of contributions. Please review the rubric for discussion board grading under course documents. Not all weekly posts will be responded to personally by the instructor, however, all posts will be graded. If you have a specific question about the material, you are encouraged to email the instructor. The discussion board will be graded by the following Sunday at the latest.

Finally, you will also be undertaking a small field study. Check the material in Unit Five when you begin this course in order to get a head start. You will need
to submit a subject proposal (short e-mail is fine) describing the group or person you plan to work in week 5. There is an example of a field study in the Course Information folder on Blackboard.

FIELD STUDY (Total of 100 points)

Please select one of the field study options to complete:

Field Study Option #1
Students will be required to submit 1 Field Study. This is an opportunity to work like an “Ethnomusicologist” and create an ethnographic work. An ethnography is “a written representation, description, and interpretation of some aspect of a music-culture.” (p.364)

Read the chapter (p. 364-381) so that you get a general idea of what a field study looks like. Select a musician or musicians or a group to focus on (any style of music is acceptable). Interview them at least for a couple of hours. Review the sample field study in the Course Information Folder on Blackboard.

Put together a questionnaire that includes items you're interested in about how they make music, got together, share expenses, etc.

Type up a 3-5+ page paper summarizing your experience with the field study. You are welcome to use an interactive presentation model like a prezi or powerpoint as well.

Include
• An introduction--why you chose this group
• A photo or two.
• A description of the group. How many, how they got together, etc.
• A description of what they play
• A description of who influenced them.
• A photo or photos of the group; JPEGES OR GIF
• You can also send me an audio file.
• A conclusion.
• NOTE: SUBMIT THIS PAPER ELECTRONICALLY to Week 10 (submit there) and not to my email. DUE DATE Friday of Week 10 by 11:55pm

Field Study Option #2

Students will be required to submit 1 Field Study. This is an opportunity to work like an “Ethnomusicologist” and create an ethnographic work. An ethnography is “a written representation, description, and interpretation of some aspect of a music-culture.” (p.364)

Read the chapter (p. 364-381) so that you get a general idea of what a field study looks like.
Prepare a meal from one of the music-cultures that we have studied in class and serve it to friends. The meal should include 2-3 dishes. If you research a meal that is served during a festival or holiday time you will probably find certain music accompanies these festivities. At the meal, please prepare either a mix tape or a collection of music from the country or region the food is from to play at your gathering. This collection should contain music from 5-10 different artists. If you are a musician try to learn a song and play it for your guests.

Type up a 3-5 page paper or power-point summarizing your experience. Powerpoints must still contain in-depth descriptions.

- Create a playlist on either Spotify or YouTube of the music you played for your guests and submit the playlist with your project.
- Include an audio recording or written summary transcript of your conversations about the music. You should ask your guests what they know about your chosen topic before and after the dinner (to find out what they knew beforehand and learned during the experience).
- Write short (3-4 sentence) biographies of each artist from your playlist.
- Include the recipes you used (at the end of your paper) and how you decided upon them.
- Talk about your experience and your guests’ experience with the food. Include specific quotes from your guests or questions that you discussed. You could prepare a list of questions to ask your guests to guide your research. Ex. How is this food different than what you eat? How is the music different than what you listen to? Are there similarities in the music and food? And if so, in what way?
- Include pictures of the dishes and your gathering; JPEGS OR GIF
- I suggest that you make set of questions for your guests to examine cultural difference and expectations regarding both the music and cuisine. (You could do a before and after examination as well) Be creative and do read the chapter on doing an ethnography because this will give you possible questions to ask.
- A conclusion

NOTE: SUBMIT THIS PAPER ELECTRONICALLY to
Week 10 (submit there) and not to my email: DUE DATE Friday of Week 10 by 11:55pm

Extra Credit (20 points/3%)

Students can write a 2-3 page biography on any world music artist of their choice that was not covered in our class. Please include a bibliography and
discography and be sure to discuss the artist’s recordings. *Due Friday of Week 9 by 11:55PM. Late work will not be accepted.*

(Late work will be docked 10% and is subject to teacher approval)

Grading Scale:

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**Students with Disabilities**

Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). Students with accommodations approved through SSD are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through SSD should contact SSD immediately at 737-4098.

The following website is a link to the university policy on student behavior, including the ramifications for actions such as cheating.

http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stucon/achon.htm

**COURSE OUTLINE:**

(The Syllabus is subject to change. Please stay current and up to date with the class)

**Unit One Folder** (Corresponds to Weeks in the Quarter)

1. Video Lecture 1: *Chapter One: The Music Culture as a World of Music*
2. Several websites to visit and view as preparation for contributing to the discussion link.
3. The Quiz for Chapter One will be uploaded Monday at 10AM Pacific Time. The Quiz must be completed by Sunday, at 11:55 p.m. Pacific Time, when the Quiz will be taken down.

**Unit Two Folder**

1. Power Point Lecture 2: *Chapter Two: North American/Native American*
2. Several websites to visit and view as preparation for contributing to the discussion link.
3. The Quiz for Chapter Two will be uploaded Monday at 10AM Pacific Time. The Quiz must be completed by Sunday, at 11:55 p.m. Pacific Time, when the Quiz will be taken down.

Unit Three Folder

1. Power Point Lecture 3: *Chapter Three: Africa/Ewe, Mande, Dagomba, Shona, BaAka*
2. Several websites to visit and view as preparation for contributing to the discussion link.
3. The Quiz for Chapter Three will be uploaded at Monday at 10AM Pacific Time. The Quiz must be completed by Sunday, at 11:55 p.m. Pacific Time, when the Quiz will be taken down.

Unit Four Folder

1. Power Point Lecture 4: *Chapter Four: North America/Black America*
2. Several websites to visit and view as preparation for contributing to the discussion link, as well as one question.
3. The Quiz for Chapter Four will be uploaded Monday at 10AM Pacific Time. The Quiz must be completed by Sunday, at 11:55 p.m. Pacific Time, when the Quiz will be taken down.

Unit Five Folder

This folder is devoted to beginning preparation for your small field study.

1. Power Point Lecture 5: Chapter 11: Discovering and Documenting a World of Music.
2. Remember that Saturday at 11:55PM is the due date for submitting the proposal for your own field study.
3. There is no Quiz this week on Chapter 11.

Unit Six Folder

1. Power Point Lecture 6: *Chapter Six: India/South India*
2. The Quiz for Chapter Six will be uploaded Monday at 10AM Pacific Time. The Quiz must be completed by Sunday, at 11:55 p.m. Pacific Time, when the Quiz will be taken down.

Unit Seven Folder

1. Power Point Lecture 7: *Chapter Seven: Asia/Indonesia*
2. Several websites to visit and view as preparation for contributing to the discussion link.
3. The Quiz for Chapter Seven will be uploaded Monday at 10AM Pacific Time. The Quiz must be completed by Sunday, at 11:55 p.m. Pacific Time, when the Quiz will be taken down.

Unit Eight Folder

1. Power Point Lecture 8: **Chapter Eight: Latin America**
2. Several websites to visit and view as preparation for contributing to the discussion link.
3. The Quiz for Chapter Eight will be uploaded Monday at 10AM Pacific Time. The Quiz must be completed by Sunday, at 11:55 p.m. Pacific Time, when the Quiz will be taken down.

Unit Nine Folder

1. Power Point opening video: **Arabic and Persian Music**
2. Several websites to visit and view as preparation for contributing to the discussion link.
3. The Quiz will be uploaded Monday at 10AM Pacific Time. The Quiz must be completed by Sunday at 11:55 p.m. Pacific Time, when the Quiz will be taken down.
4. **Extra Credit Assignment due by Friday of Week 9 by 11:55PM**

Unit 10 Folder

Unit 10 will be devoted to completing and submitting your Field Studies. Your field studies need to be submitted to Blackboard under “Week 10 Assignments” by 11:55pm. Please make sure to use word for sending in your material and to include your full name, telephone number and email (in case there is a problem opening your work).

**Student Evaluation of Teaching**

We encourage you to engage in the course evaluation process each term – online, of course. The evaluation form will be available toward the end of each term, and you will be sent instructions through ONID. You will login to “Student Online Services” to respond to the online questionnaire. The results on the form are anonymous and are not tabulated until after grades are posted.
Textbook Information:
NOTE: For textbook accuracy, please check the textbook list at the OSU Bookstore website (http://www.osubeaverstore.com/). Syllabi may not have the most up to date textbook information!

Plagiarism
You are expected to submit your own work in all your assignments, postings to the discussion board, and other communications, and to clearly give credit to the work of others when you use it. Academic dishonesty will result in a grade of “F.” Link to Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct: http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stucon/achon.htm.