

Music Cultures of the World Spring 2015

Prof: Will O'Hare

Office: C202

Hours: Mon 9-10, 11-12, 3:30-5:00, Weds 9-10, 11-12, 3:30-5:00, Fri 9-10, 11-12

Phone: 860-215-9436

E-mail: All communication is through Blackboard.

Introduction:

This course is designed to be a comparative survey of musical concepts, styles, and performance practices of various world cultures. The content will emphasize the analysis of musical expression created in different cultures by comparing/contrasting the aesthetic and functional use of music.

Course Objectives:

Students who have successfully completed this course will be able to:

1. Identify the basic elements of music (pitch, melody, rhythm, timbre etc.) as found in diverse musical non-Western cultures.
2. Aurally identify the instrumentation and styles of selections from major musical cultures.
3. Explain the traditional meanings of music in each culture presented in the course, including, but not limited to, aesthetics, the role of socio-economic dynamics, geography, gender, cultural identity, and religion or spirituality.
4. Contrast the Euro-centric world view with a variety of other world views about music.
5. Explain the influence of globalization on the development of world music cultures.

Required Books:

World Music: A Global Journey, Concise ed. By Terry Miller
(note: You do not have to buy the CDs)

Evaluation:

Course grades will be determined as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Two content exams | 200 points each |
| 2. Final examination essay | 200 points |
| 3. Class Participation | 200 points |
| 4. Semester Project | 200 points |

Conduct:

Some simple rules to live by (if you want a good grade):

1. Arrive on time and stay for the entire class.
2. No more than 2 absences (after that it affects your grade).
3. No late assignments (See policy below).
4. Be respectful of your classmates and the professor.
5. Use the writing center.
6. Participate in class.
7. Read and abide the college's academic honesty policy.
8. Do not wait until the last minute to read the assignments.
9. Study!
10. Ask for help!

Examinations:

Each examination will consist of three parts:

1. Vocabulary
2. Short Answer: You will be given a number of questions that will require you to demonstrate your knowledge of particular characteristics of the various regional music cultures we have studied.
3. Essay: You will be given a choice of questions that require you to make contextual comparisons across music regions.

Final Essay:

This essay question will be cumulative in the sense that it will ask you to respond to a broader question regarding the construction and use of music in cultures around the world. It is expected that you will make use of materials presented throughout the semester. The particular question will be given to you about week three so that you may prepare your answer throughout the semester.

Semester Project:

You will choose a music culture to explore and present to the class. Details of this project will be discussed in class and guidelines will be available on Blackboard.

Class Communication:

All communication regarding this course, including weekly assignments, will be done via Blackboard. If you are not familiar with this system you should contact the IT Help Desk to arrange for assistance.

Late Assignments:

The simple thing is to just get your work in on the day it is due. However, for those who are unable to do this read on...

Assignments are due by the end of class on the day they are assigned. Anyone wishing to hand in a late assignment must bring it to my office and place it in "The Box." These assignments will be returned at the convenience of the professor, and will be graded on a pass/fail basis (a "pass" in this case will be graded as a "D" even if it is "A" level work). No box assignments will be accepted after the last day of classes.

Make-up exams will only be given at the discretion of the professor. These will consist of two comprehensive essays.

Campus and Class Policies:

Academic Integrity - Academic integrity is essential to a useful education. Failure to act with academic integrity severely limits a person's ability to succeed in the classroom and beyond. Furthermore, academic dishonesty erodes the legitimacy of every degree awarded by the College. In this class and in the course of your academic career, present only your own best work; clearly document the sources of the material you use from others; and act at all times with honor.

Academic Dishonesty - Student Discipline Policy, section 2:10, Board of Trustees of Connecticut Community Colleges. Academic Dishonesty shall in general mean conduct which has as its intent or effect the false representation of a student's academic performance, including but not limited to (a) cheating on an examination, (b) collaborating with others in work to be presented, contrary to the stated rules of the course, (c) plagiarizing, including the submission of others' ideas or papers (whether purchased, borrowed, or otherwise obtained) as one's own, (d) stealing or having unauthorized access to examination or course materials, (e) falsifying records of laboratory or other data, (f) submitting, if contrary to the rules of a course, work previously presented in another course, and (g) knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above, including assistance in an arrangement whereby any work, classroom performance, examination or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed.

Withdrawal policy-Any student who finds it necessary to discontinue a course once class has met must provide written notice to the registrar. Withdrawal forms are available at the Registrar's office. No punitive "W" grades are assigned to any withdrawal requested before the unrestricted withdrawal deadline for the semester. Withdrawal requests received after this deadline must bear the signature of the instructor. No withdrawals are permitted after the last class preceding the final exam. Students who do not obtain an official withdrawal, but simply stop attending classes, run the risk of receiving an "F" grade for the course.

Students with disabilities- Students with disabilities are guaranteed reasonable accommodations under the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992. Disclosure of a disability must be voluntary. If you have a hidden or visible disability that may require classroom or test-taking modifications, please contact the Student Development Services office at 860-383-5217. Please see the Three Rivers Community College Catalog for additional policies and information.

Classroom Behavior- This is a college course for committed students, and I expect you to maintain proper decorum in the classroom. **Unless you are an emergency responder of some sort, all cell phones, Blackberries, text messaging devices, etc. should be turned off during class.** All MP3 players, laptops, and other electronic devices should be turned off as well. Treat your fellow students with maturity and respect at all times. Extend the same attitude towards your instructor. **Immature behavior will not be tolerated; if I am forced to address a behavior issue more than once, you will be asked to leave and not return to class.**

Digication: All students are required to maintain a learning portfolio in Digication that uses the Three Rivers College Template.

Revisions to Syllabus:

The information contained in the syllabus is subject to revision at my discretion. I will inform the class of any changes that are made. If you miss a class, check with a classmate upon your return to verify that you have the most up-to-date information.

MyCommnet Alert:

The myCommNet Alert is a system that sends text messages and emails to anyone signed up in the event of a campus emergency. Additionally, TRCC sends messages when the college is delayed or closed due to weather. All students are encouraged to sign up for myCommNet Alert. A tutorial is available on the Educational Technology and Distance Learning Students page of the college web site. with students.