

Music Cultures of the World

Prof: Will Hare

Office: C202

Hours: M,W,F, 12:30-1:30 and 3:30-4:30

Other times by appointment

Phone: 383-5216

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:

Excursions in World Music

Three CD set that accompanies the textbook.

Companion website: MyMusicLab

Evaluation:

Course grades will be determined as follows:

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|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Two content examines | 400 points |
| 2. Listening Quizzes | 300 points |
| 3. Final examination essay | 400 points |
| 4. Online Quizzes | 400 points |
| 5. Class Participation | 500 points (including project) |

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 four parts:

1. Listening Identification: You will be given a short piece of recorded music to identify by region, principle instrumentation, and particular characteristics in terms of the elements of music.
2. Instrument Identification: You will be shown a selection of instruments to be identified by region and classification (idiophone, chordophone, etc.)
3. 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.
4. 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 Participation:

You can't participate if you aren't in class (physically and mentally!). Students who participate "above and beyond" will receive additional points.

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.

Academic Dishonesty:

Any form of cheating, including plagiarism, will result in the immediate failure of the assignment and an official report to academic officials. Please see me if you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism.

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.

College Withdrawal Policy:

A student who finds it necessary to discontinue a course MUST complete a withdrawal form obtained from the Registrar's Office. Students may withdraw from class anytime during the first ten weeks of the semester without obtaining permission of the instructor. After that period, a student wishing to withdraw must obtain written authorization of the instructor to receive a "W" grade for the course. Students who fail to properly withdraw, and discontinue coming to class, will be assigned an "F" grade. Eligibility for refund of tuition is based upon date of withdrawal through the registrar's office. Verbal withdrawals will not be accepted.

Learning Disabilities:

If you have a disability that may require classroom or test-taking modifications, please see me as soon as possible.

Note: This syllabus is subject to changes as needed.