

MUS 321 - Worlds of Music
Syllabus

Worlds of Music

MUS 321-01

2 credits

Wednesday 5:00- 6:45 p.m.

Location: T-40 Room 2

Instructor: Steven M. Miller

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Course Abstract:

Who makes music? What is it used for? What roles do music making and listening play in human cultures? What are some of the connections between seemingly very different musics from different times and places? What are some of the relationships between the way different cultures make use of music?

The goals of this course will be to provide the students with both a broad as well as focused exposure to musics found in various cultures, as well as an understanding of the roles music plays within these individual cultures. By linking an overall view of musical activity with the content and contexts of music within specific cultures, the overarching concern will be to gain an understanding of the essential human activity of music making, and its integral role in the development of human cultures. One intended outcome is to foster an awareness of and sensitivity to the roles music plays beyond the most common role within our own culture: that of entertainment and participation in a commodity-culture based on economic models of value and worth.

Course Description:

This course will explore the traditional and contemporary musics of some of the outstanding musical cultures of the world. We will explore the musics of the peoples of Asia, Africa, the Indian Subcontinent, Middle East, Europe, the Caribbean and Latin America, and North America. By placing these musics into social and cultural contexts, we will examine not only the musics themselves, but also the forces which have shaped, and been shaped by them, as well.

A major focus will also be placed on the students gaining an understanding of the processes and issues of musical ethnography. Students will be using this knowledge to study and present information on musics in the world around them.

Classroom presentations will include videos, listening sessions, discussions, demonstrations, and lectures. Woven into the material presented in class will be regular outside reading, listening, viewing, and writing assignments.

Required Texts:

- 1) Titon, Jeff Todd, Ed. Worlds of Music, Shorter Version. New York: Schirmer Books. 2001 plus: accompanying CD listening set.
- 2) Other readings as assigned: handouts or on reserve in the library

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Other course materials:

You will need to own or have access to a still camera, video camera, and/or portable tape recorder for final project field work. Handheld all-in-one cassette recorders are adequate, as are disposable cameras.

Assignments, Projects, Etc.:

- 1) There will be question & answer and/or discussion periods during most, if not all, class sessions. These will relate to lecture topics, readings, and listening assignments. Active, informed, and appropriate participation in these, on a regular basis, will be an important indicator of your semester grade.
- 2) There will be regular reading assignments to prepare you for the in-class lectures, listening exercises, activities, etc. The reading assignments must be done *In Advance* of the date to which they are assigned in the attached semester schedule. In other words, the date is the *due-date*, not the beginning date for the completion of the reading assignments. The associated listening examples should be listened to, and considered as integral to the reading assignments. You should take notes on the readings & associated listenings, to aid in class discussion on the related topics.
- 3) There will be a series of 4 short writing assignments based on a handout distributed in class. The writing assignments will relate to in-class discussion & lectures as well as reading, viewing, and/or listening assignments.
- 4) There will be 1 mid-term written paper and 1 final field work/documentary project.

Grading Policy, and Expectations Concerning Student Work:

- 1) All students will be expected to actively participate in class discussions, complete all written assignments on time, complete all reading, viewing, and listening assignments prior to the associated discussion sessions, and attend all classes. Excessive absences will negatively impact the student's semester grade. Students will be expected to adhere to the CSF attendance policy.
- 2) All students will be responsible for completing assigned readings, papers, projects, etc. While acknowledging and allowing for exceptional circumstances, students are highly encouraged to complete all assignments in a timely manner. Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the due date. Late assignments will receive half-credit.
- 3) There will be 1 (one) midterm paper and 1 (one) final project. The general content and specific requirements will be covered in handouts as well as class discussion. Any student who fails to turn in the midterm or final will automatically earn a semester grade of 'F'.
- 4) Midterm and final papers must adhere to the guidelines provided for credit to be awarded.

Grading:

Participation/Attendance	10%
Assignments	20%
Midterm paper	30%
<u>Final project</u>	<u>40%</u>
Semester Grade	100%

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Americans With Disabilities Act:

The College of Santa Fe makes every effort to provide appropriate accommodations for students with documented disabilities in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act. Students may receive the accommodations if they contact their professor and register with at the Center for Academic Excellence with the Disabilities Service Coordinator, Donna Collins, 473-6552.

Note: All reasonable attempts will be made to adhere to the schedule & information in this syllabus. However, the instructor reserves the right to make accommodations & adaptations based on class progress, special opportunities, as well as occurrences outside the instructor's control.