

MUS 150/350 – Gamelan Syllabus

Gamelan

MUS 151/351

1 credit

Thursday 5:30 – 7:00 PM

Location: Benildus 127 (World Music Studio)

Instructor: Steven M. Miller

Office: Benildus 237

Phone: x6197

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www: <http://pubweb.csf.edu/~smill>

Course Description:

This ensemble course will serve as an introduction to the performance technique, theory, history, and cultural context of the gamelan traditions of either/both Central Java and Sunda (West Java). As the primary focus is on playing, we will concentrate our efforts on learning and rehearsing pieces drawn from the standard repertoire in the cultural/geographic areas of Java, Sunda, and Cirebon. We may also have discussion, listening, and video viewing sessions to help provide context to the music. There will be at least one additional required practice/rehearsal session per week in addition to the scheduled course time. The day/time for this will be decided in class in the first week.

As this is an ensemble, and inter-dependence among the players is of paramount importance, regular and continued attendance and participation in rehearsals and performances is absolutely essential. Ensemble members will be expected to arrive early enough to begin rehearsal promptly at 5:30 p.m. Late arrivals and excused absences must be kept to an absolute minimum, and no unexcused absences will be tolerated. If attendance and/or participation become problematic, members may be administratively withdrawn from the ensemble.

Required Texts:

1. Sorrell, Neil. A Guide to the Gamelan. Ithaca, NY: Society for Asian Music, 2000.
2. Miller, Steven. Javanese Gamelan Vocabulary & Concepts. Available online: <http://pubweb.csf.edu/~smill/courses.html>
3. Various handouts available online or distributed in class

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Expectations Concerning Student Work:

1. Students will be responsible for completing any assigned readings in a timely manner.
2. Attendance and active and productive participation in all rehearsals, discussions, and performances is mandatory.
3. The final exam for the semester will be the ensemble's performance at the CMP Ensemble Forum, scheduled towards the end of the semester. Participation is mandatory.

Grading:

Final Performance	30%
Participation/Attendance	70%
Final Grade	100%