

# Music in World Cultures

*Course Number:* MUH 2051

*Class Meetings:* MWF 10:10 – 11:00 HMU 225

*Instructor:* Christian Savage

*Office:* Longmire 411

*Office Hours:* MR 1:00-2:20, or by appointment

*Email:* cgs10@fsu.edu

*Graduate Assistant:* Matthew Y. Minion

*Email:* myminion@gmail.com

## **Description:**

What is music? More specifically, what is world music? How about culture? How are music and culture linked? How do multiple cultures converge and generate a new musical form? This class is designed to expose you to a wide range of musics spanning six continents and several centuries. While some of this music may be familiar, a great deal of it will be entirely new. Time will be spent discussing the cultures from which these musics spring. As a part of this exploration of world music, you will have many opportunities to shape your knowledge into discrete entities (otherwise known as essays). In addition to furthering understanding of the material, these writing assignments will provide a source of enhanced reflection. Ultimately, I anticipate this course will provide some provisional answers to the initial queries posed above, but will hopefully also inspire many new questions.

## **Objectives:**

1. To foster critical thinking about the world in general, and music in particular.
2. To explore the ways in which cultural and historical processes affect music.
3. To learn how to write intelligently about music.
4. To broaden the aesthetic and intellectual horizons of both instructor and students.

## **Organization:**

This course will consist of thrice-weekly meetings. These meetings will be predominantly used as a chance for the instructor to explore in greater depth the information presented in the course textbook (see below). However, as often as possible, time will be reserved for discussions (both small group and class-wide). These discussions will explore pertinent information related, but no means limited to, recent College of Music concerts, guest lecturers, and your insights regarding the course material.

## **Materials:**

You are required to purchase one book, Michael Bakan's *World Music: Traditions and Transformations*. New York: McGraw Hill, 2007. You must also purchase the three compact discs that accompany said book. No other materials will be necessary, though throughout the course of the semester you will need to read and listen to additional materials which will be on reserve in the Allen Music Library.

## Evaluation:

|                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Blackboard quizzes (3)          | – 15% (5% each)  |
| World Music Concert Reviews (3) | – 30% (10% each) |
| Midterm Exam OR Term Paper      | – 25%            |
| Final Exam (cumulative)         | – 30%            |

The grade scale for the course is as follows:

|           |           |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| A: 93-100 | A-: 90-92 | B+: 87-89 | B: 83-86  |
| B-: 80-82 | C+: 77-79 | C: 73-76  | C-: 70-72 |
| D: 65-69  | F: <65    |           |           |

## Assignments:

*Regarding Blackboard Quizzes:* These quizzes will be short, 10 question, multiple choice reviews of material found both in *class lectures* and *weekly readings* (you'll notice that though I have no attendance policy, I do have means of ensuring you do your jobs as students!). Quizzes will be located in the Blackboard assignment section. You will only have one shot at completing each quiz, so don't click submit unless you are confident in your answers. Quizzes will have a time limit of one hour each, but I doubt any of them will take more than 15 minutes. And, needless to say, please do NOT discuss quizzes with other students or take quizzes together.

*Regarding Concert Reviews:* Writing has variously been compared to both an art and a science; regardless, it is an essential skill for any future job. Therefore, this course will focus on communication skills, particularly how to write intelligently about music. You will need to attend at least three (3) concerts dealing with music outside of the realm of the Western art repertoire. For each of these, you should prepare a 2 page (double-spaced) report answering these questions: Who was performing? What music was played? How did the music tie into material covered in class? What was your opinion of the music (be thoughtful and mature)? Concert reviews are due no more than ONE WEEK after the date of the concert. I will endeavor to promptly grade and return reviews you give me so you can get feedback on your writing style.

*Regarding the Midterm/Term Paper:* You are invited to choose ONE of these assignments to complete. The midterm exam will be discussed as the time approaches, but for now know it will be in-class, cumulative up to a point, and involve a mix of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. The term paper is a short (5-7 page) assignment designed to get you thinking creatively about musical traditions not covered in class. You are to select a tradition NOT on this syllabus (or to approach a tradition covered in class from a new angle - discuss this with me), research its main features, present its history, and describe how it relates to other musics of the world. I will hand out a detailed assignment sheet in the coming weeks. The books and CDs in the Allen Music Library are at your disposal; please use them!

Note that the term paper will be due the day before the midterm; students who hand in the paper will be exempt from attending class the next day.

*Regarding the Final Exam:* The final examination will be scheduled during the University-appointed time slot. It will feature a similar format as the midterm: a mix of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. It will also be cumulative, encompassing material from the entire semester. A word of advice about the final: it is never too early to begin studying!

**Blackboard:**

The syllabus, announcements, course calendar, assignments, and other essential materials and resources (including lecture notes) are posted on the course Blackboard site, which you should check regularly. You also need to regularly check your FSU email account (or an account to which you have FSU course e-mails forwarded to you), as e-mails sent to the class will be the primary medium for communication of essential information regarding assignments, tests, schedule modifications, etc.

**Policies:**

*Classroom etiquette:* I expect the classroom to be a site devoted to learning and the free exchange of ideas. Please come to class prepared to think intelligently about the material for the day. Avoid lateness; not only is it disruptive, it reflects poorly on your character. Also, please refrain from texting, emailing, or pursuing frivolous activities on the internet while in class. I recognize the temptations free wireless has to offer, and will thus in my lecturing attempt to be more engaging than Facebook. However, you must do your part too.

*Attendance:* College is a time of increased freedom, but also increased responsibility. To that end, I have no formal policy on attendance. However, this does *not* give you license to wantonly skip class. Exams and other projects will draw heavily on material covered in lectures, and it is doubtful you will be able to pass these assignments if you are habitually delinquent (have more than 3 absences). Furthermore, I *will* record attendance daily in case your advisor or dean inquires about your academic behavior.

*Late Assignments:* I will accept NO late assignments. This syllabus contains all of the due dates for the semester; I suggest you acquaint yourselves with them now. Schedule/plan ahead to ensure you have ample time to complete your work. In the event of an excused (University-approved) absence, please see me BEFORE an assignment is due so we can work something out. In the event of a family/medical emergency, the appropriate level of leniency will be given.

**Academic Integrity:**

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. You are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy. I will stress here just a couple of important points:

1. **PLAGARISM** is a reprehensible practice, and will not be tolerated in this class. Using the ideas of other writers is perfectly acceptable, provided you CITE your sources. When in doubt, please cite!

2. ALL work submitted for this course is expected to be new and original. Do NOT submit any work (or parts of work) previously turned in for credit in another class.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:**

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:

- (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and
- (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Student Disability Resource Center  
874 Traditions Way  
108 Student Services Building  
Florida State University  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167  
(850) 644-9566 (voice)  
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)  
(850) 644-7164  
sdr@admin.fsu.edu  
<http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/>

**Syllabus Change Policy:**

Though unlikely, the instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus with advanced notice and consultation of the class. Changes, if they occur, will most likely involve weekly assignments; the grading system will remain intact.

## **Preliminary Course Schedule (subject to changes)**

Note: For every reading assignment listed below, you are expected to do all of the corresponding listening exercises, CD set examples, Musical Guided Tours, Musical Illustrations, etc.

### **Week 1: August 29 – September 2**

M – Introduction to the course, syllabus  
W – Chapter 1 – What is Music?  
F – Chapter 2 – How Music Lives

### **Week 2: September 5 – 9**

M – NO CLASS – LABOR DAY  
W – Chapter 3 - Rhythm  
F – Chapter 4 - Pitch

### **Week 3: September 12 – 16**

M – Chapter 5 – Dynamics/Timbre/Instruments  
W – Chapter 6 – Texture/Form  
F – Chapter 7 – Bali

\*First Blackboard Quiz\*

### **Week 4: September 19 – 23**

M – Chapter 7 – Bali  
W – Chapter 7 – Bali  
F – Chapter 7 – Bali

\*Guest Presentation – Beleganjur Ensemble\*

### **Week 5: September 26 – 30**

M – Chapter 8 – India  
W – Chapter 8 – India  
F – Chapter 8 – India

### **Week 6: October 3 – 7**

M – Chapter 12 – Egypt  
W – Chapter 12 – Egypt  
F - Chapter 12 – Egypt

\*Second Blackboard Quiz\*

### **Week 7: October 10 – 14**

M – NO CLASS – COLUMBUS DAY  
W – Chapter 14 – Jewish  
F – Chapter 14 – Jewish

### **Week 8: October 17 – 21**

M – Chapter 14 – Jewish  
W – Chapter 14/Midterm Review  
R –  
F –

\*Term Paper Due (by 5:00 PM)\*

\*Midterm Examination (Chapters 1-8, 12, 14)

### **Week 9: October 24 – 28**

M – Chapter 13 – China  
W – Chapter 13 – China  
F - Chapter 13 – China

### **Week 10: October 31 – November 4**

M – Chapter 10 – Africa  
W – Chapter 10 – Africa  
F – Chapter 10 – Africa

\* Guest Lecturer – South African Specialist\*

**Week 11: November 7 – 11**

M – Chapter 11 – Latin

W – Chapter 11 – Latin

F – NO CLASS – VETERANS' DAY

**Week 12: November 14 – 18**

M – Chapter 11 – Latin

W – Chapter 11 – Latin

F – Chapter 9 – Ireland

\*Guest Presentation – Latin Dance Ensemble\*

\*Third Blackboard Quiz\*

**Week 13: November 21 – 25**

M – Chapter 9 – Ireland

W – Chapter 9 – Ireland

F – NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING

**Week 14: November 28 – December 2**

M – Oceana (readings to be posted)

W – Oceana (readings to be posted)

F – Oceana (readings to be posted)

**Week 15: December 5 – 9**

M - Review

W - Review

F - Review

**Week 16: December 12 – 16 FINALS WEEK**

Final Exam (TBA)