

World Music, MUSI 2160-81 Syllabus

DESCRIPTION

An online introductory course about music from different parts of the world. We will not cover Western "art" or "classical" music nor will we cover jazz or pop music as those genres are covered in other classes.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1.) Be able to have a grasp of several specific genres and traditions of world music, with appropriate terminology and historical understanding.
- 2.) Be able to use this knowledge to generalize out and understand and explore other forms of music that you might encounter.

REQUIRED MATERIALS/GRADING AND POLICIES

Since this course is a compact, three-week course, we will move quickly through the material, using the Titon book as our primary reference, thus you must have *Worlds of Music, 5th edition*, by Jeff Todd Titon. You will also need the **four CDs** that come with that book, as well as access to an **online music service** such as emusic or itunes or Spotify.

Grades will be broken down as follows:

- 1.) short writing assignments (six of them, approximately 2 pages each), 60% (each paper counts for 10% of your final grade)
- 2.) African listening analysis, 40% (three to four pages)

Since this is an online class I'm not using multiple choice tests as it's hard to know if people are being honest or not. There is no way to plagiarize or cheat on the short papers and it will help you in your analysis and thinking skills. The listening analyses are more in depth and thus count for more of your grade. You won't be able to copy and paste from Wikipedia, either. I'm counting on your integrity and your intelligence. You came to university to broaden your horizons and open your mind. Please do the work on your own and that will happen!

Assignments are due by the end of the day noted. (e.g., Assignment 1 May 24 means it's due by midnight on May 24.) If there is a range of dates (e.g., May 25-27), then it is due at the end of the day of the end of the date range. For every day that it is late your grade will drop by one letter grade on that assignment.

We may also do some chats if time permits on the message boards. Stay tuned for that.

IMPORTANT NOTE: WHEN YOU SUBMIT ASSIGNMENTS DO NOT COPY AND PASTE THEM INTO THE TEXT BOX. YOU MUST SELECT "BROWSE FOR LOCAL FILE" AND PULL IT OFF YOUR COMPUTER. THEN BE SURE TO HIT "UPLOAD FILE." When uploading assignments, be sure to label them like this: Last name, assignment number, date. For example: **smithassignment2may24**.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT NOTE: In Blackboard you can ONLY use letters and numbers in your file names. If you label your file something like this: "smithassignment#2may, 24," with symbols like "#". I won't be able to open it! So, uh, don't do that!

Note about assignments schedule: I've often got a range of dates, for example, June 1-3. This is just to give you a basic idea of how to pace yourself. I didn't include weekends though you will likely need to do some work over the weekends, depending on your work schedule, etc. At any rate, the assignment is due the last day of the range of dates. So for June 1-3 the assignment is due by the end of the day on June 3. **For each day that the assignment is late you will be dropped a full letter grade for that particular assignment.**

Style and formatting considerations:

- 1.) 12-point font

- 2.) One-inch margins (1")
- 3.) Double spaced
- 4.) Either a space between paragraphs or an indentation, your choice.
- 5.) Be VERY careful about spelling and grammar and punctuation. I will be tough on you regarding this.
- 6.) Avoid fluff. I can spot it a mile away. Get to the point. Be concise.

For the "close listening" assignments and the analysis, here are some pointers:

- 1.) Be sure to go into some detail. "Drums enter" doesn't tell me much, for example. Which drums? How do they sound? Like the last entrance, or different?
- 2.) Be sure to reference the chapter you read and use some of that vocabulary. I want to know that you read the chapter and are assimilating the vocabulary and the concepts. What are the specific names of the instruments? What do you observe in the videos about the concert situation from a cultural standpoint? What can you tell me about the melodic and rhythmic styles? Prove to me that you read the chapter. It's okay to even quote from it briefly if that helps your case.
- 3.) Feel free to supplement your reading with additional research on the web. Just keep in mind that anyone can put up anything on the web so not all the information is correct, but still you can learn a lot from reading articles, watching videos, and listening to sound clips and interviews. For example, with the assignment about the African group Konono No. 1 there's much you can learn about them by looking at the website of their record label and watching youtube clips of them, not to mention the Wikipedia entry.
- 4.) Unless I specifically ask for it, don't waste time and space telling me about your opinion of the music. Two pages is not very much space. If you're really doing a thorough analysis you'll barely be able to fit it in, and you certainly won't have any room to tell me whether you like the music or not. I'm interested in the sense that I'm interested in YOU and your ideas, but that's better done over coffee. (Which I would love to do, just email me!)

(Assignments will be listed over Blackboard.)