

## **WORLD MUSIC – MUSI 2160-80**

Prof. Peter Coll

Office Hours: By Appointment

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This course is offered primarily because of the enormous interest in and growing appreciation of the music of both non-Western cultures and the traditional folk musics of Europe and the American continents in recent years. University courses in world music have increased steadily since the 1950's and more dramatically in the last twenty years. Most music departments have realized that to confine the study of music appreciation solely to the Western classics is ethnocentric and now seek to offer courses in the music of other cultures to broaden the student's musical horizons. When successfully accomplished, this approach results not only in a better understanding of the music of a particular culture but also a respect for and appreciation of the culture itself, as music is among the most enduring cultural elements. Music symbolizes a people's way of life—for many, music is a way of life.

The course format is not a survey of world music in the strict sense. Rather it is a sampling of a small number of representative musical cultures—this format has been used successfully not only in musical studies, but in other disciplines as well. Experts in many culture-related disciplines consider this approach the preferred choice for a solid foundational understanding of an unfamiliar subject. The course text, *Worlds of Music*, ed. Jeff Todd Titon (Fifth Edition) follows the same line of presentation, so both reading assignments and related listening examples reflect a similar approach. The student will also have the opportunity to participate in discussions with both the instructor and other students as part of the weekly class schedule. The students will be divided into discussion groups from the first week of class. This format will facilitate a lively exchange of information and ideas for each discussion topic. The familiarity of a student with others in his/her group will hopefully result in a certain “comfort level” where each student will feel at ease discussing the course assignments—reading or listening. Quizzes will be given at regular intervals and exams administered at designated times. Concert attendance of world music, folk music or other ethnic music performances is highly encouraged but not required for this course. Music and cultural resources in addition to the required materials will be available during the course. Students are encouraged to explore this area.

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**Winter Session**

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**Course Outline With Assignments**

The course text, *Worlds of Music, 5th Edition*, ed. Jeff Todd Titon, is bundled with a set of 4 CDs. For the Winter Session there are five four-day class segments (modules) that are coordinated with text chapters. All reading assignments are closely connected to the listening examples on the CD set. Most weekly discussion topics and papers refer directly to a reading and/or listening topic. Please follow this outline:

**Module I** The Music-Culture as a World of Music – Read Chapter 1.  
Africa – Read Chapter 3.

**Module II** North America: Black America – Read Chapter 4.  
**Midterm Exam**

**Module III** Europe: Central and Southeastern Regions - Read Chapter 5.

**Module IV** India: South India - Read Chapter 6.

**Module V** Latin America: Chile, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru - Read Chapter 9.  
**Final Exam**

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**COURSE OUTCOMES**

1. An increased understanding and appreciation of the music of the cultures presented in the course outline.
2. Demonstrating knowledge of diverse cultures, including global and historical perspectives.
3. Demonstrating an awareness of global connections and interdependencies.
4. An increased vocabulary of musical terminology.
5. A basic working knowledge of the elements of music, specifically rhythm, melody and harmony as they apply to the subject areas.
6. Recognizing the stylistic similarities and differences between the areas of study.
7. Developing collaborative learning skills as applied to working with fellow students in discussion groups.
8. Communicating effectively through writing skills.
9. Demonstrating an appreciation for aesthetics and creative activity.
10. Using computer and emerging digital technologies effectively.

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**Grading Policies**

Grades will be determined using the following percentages:

Exams (Midterm and Final) – 20%  
Quizzes – 20%  
Essays – 20%  
Group Discussions – 20%  
Individual Projects\* – 20%

**Individual Projects**

\*Students may choose from the following list:

1. Attendance of a world music or ethnic music concert with written report (must be approved by the instructor BEFORE attending).
2. Doing a music ethnography, as explained in Chapter 11 of the text.
3. Writing a research paper on the music of a culture not covered in the course.

Other projects may be considered at the discretion of the instructor.