Course Description

The purpose of this course is to guide the student towards an understanding of the history and heritage of Chicano/Latino music as a form of cultural expression and its impact on U.S. popular music. We will examine a wide range of music from the earliest folk music to the most contemporary fusion through the study of readings, recordings, and film. While everyone brings some level of musical experience, this course seeks to develop within the listener a greater appreciation of musical styles from the past while building a greater understanding of more contemporary styles at the popular as well as cultural levels. Prior musical training is not necessary for doing well in this course although at times basic musical technique or knowledge will be discussed. What is essential is learning how to listen as well as understanding the role of culture in developing an improved appreciation and comprehension of a broad repertoire of Chicano/Latino music.

Objectives

1. Develop a reflective understanding of seminal writings and recordings documenting past and present Chicano/Latino musical experiences and expressions.

2. Gain a holistic appreciation of the diversity of U.S. Latino music and the factors affecting its multiple manifestations over time and space.

3. Develop a multidisciplinary understanding of methodological practices and theoretical perspectives available for the comparative study of Chicano/Latino music.

4. Improve individual and collective critical reading, listening, writing, and speaking skills for comparatively studying and discussing music in its community contexts.

These objectives will be accomplished in a variety of ways: Objectives # 1 and 2 will be realized through key readings on specific musical styles and extensive listening to original recordings of music. Objective # 3 will be accomplished through lecture and readings on the nature of popular culture and methods in ethnomusicology. Objective 4 will be accomplished through writing detailed in the following paragraph.
Evaluation

The final grade will be calculated upon successful completion of 3 key assignments: 1) a comparative CD review worth 15 points; 2) a midterm worth 30 points; and 3) completion of a final writing assignment (worth 40 points). In addition, attendance will be worth 15 points (Please note: 3 points will be deducted for each unexcused absence, late CD review papers will lose 3 points per week, and 5 points per day for late finals). This adds up to 100 total points that can be earned. Grades are based on a point system as illustrated below and each assignment will earn points rather than a letter grade. The overall points and respective grades breakdown as follows:

Please note: there will be no extra credit assignments.

100 – 91 = A
90 - 81 = B
80 – 71 = C
70 - 61 = D
60 - = F

Course Drop Deadline: April 3, 2020

Technology use

When in class turn off your phones. Texting while class is in session is a distraction and rude. You will be warned once and the second time dropped from the class. The same holds for laptops. Be sure you’re taking notes or the same will happen.

Readings

CHST 3304 readings can be found on Blackboard.

Course Outline

January 27

1. Course Overview and Defining Terms

This session will review basic perspectives and paradigms of our course of study, and the essential conceptual and perceptual approaches that we use in conducting a
comparative analysis. It includes a discussion of guidelines for preparing the writing assignments. We will also examine the dilemma of defining Latin music.

February 3

2. Roots of Mestizo/Mulatto Musical Heritage
   Reading: Roberts, chapter 1

February 10

3. Diversity in Chicano Music
   Screen: The Chicano Wave

February 17

4. Corridos
   Reading: Gonzalez, “Corrido”

February 24

5. Tex-Mex Conjunto
   Reading: Peña, chapter 3
   Screen: Songs of the Homeland
   Study Guide distributed

March 2

6. Conjunto (cont.)
   Review

March 9

7. Midterm

March 16-20 - Spring Break
March 23

8. 1940s: Mambo Time and Pachuco Boogie
   Reading: Avant-Mier, “The Missing Links: Zoot Suits, Original Chicanos…
   Guerrero, “the Pachuco Years”
   CD review due

March 30

9. Chicano Rock - lecture
   Reading: Guevara, “The View from the 6th St. Bridge”
   Screen: Chicano Rock

April 6

10. Chicano Rock (cont.)
    Screen: Bridges

April 13

11. Music of the Chicano Movement
    Reading: Villarino, “The New Chicano Heroic Corrido”

April 20

12. Latin Jazz

April 27


May 4

14. Finals due in class