

# SYLLABUS: Music, Culture, and Society

MUSL 2321 - University of Texas at El Paso  
Spring 2022

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Office hours hybrid: zoom and in-person.

See blackboard and email for more information.

## Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Deconstruct and discuss basic music-cultural issues relating to community, identity, value, politics, gender, and history.
  - a. Observe and describe these issues as they relate to the student's own life, and in nearby musical communities
2. Describe music of any style of popular or non-western music with specific musical vocabulary.
3. Interpret implicit messages in media and music.
4. Recount basic information about some styles, genres, and cultural issues on traditional musics from Mexico, Bali, Egypt, Japan, and the Hispanic Caribbean.

## Some Important Course Policies in a Nutshell:

(Explained in greater detail throughout the syllabus)

- Late work is not accepted
- Due dates are on the Course Calendar
- Check your email daily
- Computer and constant internet are required during online periods
- This class takes 3-6 hours per week
- Contact the Help Desk if you have problems with BlackBoard: 915-747-4357

## Required Texts:

NONE! 😊

## Course Units:

1. Musical Description
2. Mexico
3. Bali
4. Egypt
5. Japan
6. The Hispanic Caribbean

## Concerning Communication

You are expected to check your UTEP email at least once a day. Please check your email, the announcements tab, syllabus, and course calendar before contacting your instructor with questions!

## A Word on Computer Literacy

Assignments for this course will be due on BlackBoard. That means that in order to complete your work for this course, you must have:

- Constant access to a working computer throughout the semester.
- Your computer must have internet access and Microsoft Word.

You must be capable of accomplishing the following tasks on a computer:

- Accessing the course website.
- Accessing the library website and databases.
- Creating a word document.
- Uploading a document to a blackboard.
- Filming a video of yourself.
- Sharing a video that you have filmed to blackboard.

If you are unable to complete any of these tasks, contact the technology center in the library for assistance and equipment checkout *during the first week of classes*. [www.helpdesk.utep.edu](http://www.helpdesk.utep.edu)

Save your work!:

- Do not upload the only copy of your assignment to blackboard. You are responsible for saving a copy of every assignment you write to your computer.

### File Types:

- Acceptable:
  - .doc
  - .docx
  - .pdf
  - .jpeg
  - .png
- Not Acceptable:
  - .pages (It is particularly common for people to try to submit this one! Mac users: I cannot read these files)
  - .heic

## In the Event of Computer Problems

Technology problems are not a valid excuse for late assignments. Do not leave work until the last minute. You must allow yourself time (at least 2 hours) to adjust for emergencies - e.g. internet goes down, computer breaks, etc.

You should usually contact the Blackboard technical support for technical issues. Assess the situation and decide whether your issue is one for the instructor, or for the UTEP help desk. [Helpdesk.utep.edu](http://Helpdesk.utep.edu)

## Class Requirements

Workload will vary, but you should plan on spending roughly 3-6 hours per week on assignments. **If you do not have 3-6 hours per week to dedicate to this class, you should not be in it.**

Lecture Assignment types:

- Quiz
- In-class exercises
- Class notes
  - You may not submit the summary notes the instructor has written and emailed.
  - Your notes must contain more detailed than the instructors summary notes from class.

Lecture Assignments and Absences

If you have an excused absence and are unable to complete the lecture assignment, you may request detailed notes from a classmate and complete the assignment. **HOWEVER** if you were not present in class, you may not (cannot) submit class notes, in which case you should request an alternate assignment from the instructor.

If you are absent for an unexcused (non-emergency) reason, you may not complete the class notes assignment (it is too late).

## Regarding Deadlines

In this course, you are expected to develop professional skills, including, but not limited to: coping with conflicts between your personal, work, and school life, planning your week's schedule in advance, practicing clear email communication, and submitting work on time. Familiarize yourself with due dates for major projects and quizzes at the beginning of the semester. Let the instructor know in the first week of the semester if you foresee any legitimate conflicts with these dates. Unless you have a legitimate emergency and inform your instructor either immediately before, or after an assignment is due, all deadlines are final.

**Personal scheduling conflicts, including work schedules, do not qualify for assignment extensions. If you have a busy and unpredictable personal schedule, you need to complete work in advance to avoid missed deadlines.**

## Attendance Policy

- If you are sick, do not come to class. Contact the instructor via email.
- If you are not sick, you must come to class during in-person teaching periods.
- 3 non-emergency absences are allowed without grade penalty.
- After the 3rd unexcused absence the student's final grade will go down 2% per unexcused absence

- So 4 unexcused absences would mean a loss of 2%, 5 would mean 4% etc.
- It is your responsibility every day to either make sure you are marked present with i-clicker, or to speak with the instructor after class. Otherwise, you will be marked as absent for the day.

## A Finite Number of Emergencies

Extensions may be granted in extreme emergency situations. No student will be granted more than 3 emergency extensions in a semester. Emergency extensions will not be granted covering more than 3 weeks. Students with problems that extend beyond these conditions should contact the registrar for an emergency medical withdrawal from the semester:

<https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/registrar/>

## Your Grade

Lecture Assignments (quizzes, written responses, musical descriptions, notes summaries): 60%

Reflections (paper and discussion board presentation): 25%

Community Observation (paper and discussion board presentation): 15%

100-90% = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

Below 60% = F

**Knowing Your Grade:** I find the blackboard grading program overly complex and inconsistent, so I will not calculate grades on that website. You will see grades for individual assignments under the “my grades,” but your current and final grade are calculated on my computer, not on blackboard. You will receive regular, automatically generated grade updates to your UTEP email.

## Academic Honor Policy

The state of Texas has particularly harsh punishments for Academic Honor transgressions, so think very carefully before breaking any of the rules listed here. Plagiarism is not tolerated in the course. Suspected cases of plagiarism will be immediately submitted for disciplinary action. Refer to the Student Conduct Guide for further information

<http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/>

### To Summarize:

- **You must put information you’ve researched into your own words. It cannot be exactly copied from your sources unless it is properly cited and clearly in quotes.**
  - This includes outline assignments. When outlining an article, you need to concisely summarize it. You cannot copy exactly what is written anywhere and put it into an outline without quotes.
- All information not completely original to your own experience must be cited correctly.
- Do not copy other people’s work.

- You cannot invent historical facts, but you can have opinions.
- All work for this course must be original to this course. You cannot turn in assignments you've written for another class.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act**

Any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities will be made. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Center for Accommodations and Support services Office. CASS can be reached in the following ways: <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/> 915-747-5148, or via email, [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu).