

**MUSIC, CULTURE, and SOCIETY**  
**MUSL 2321**  
**CRN 13158, TR 12:00-1:20pm, FFA 402**

**Instructor:** Dr. Sara Renner

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Office: FFA 132

Office Hours: Mondays 1:30-2:30pm, Thursdays 3:00-4:00pm, or by appointment

**Text:** No required text! Readings will be distributed by the instructor.

**Course Objectives:**

- Gain an understanding of musical concepts, genres, terms, and other foundational elements of cultural and societal issues as they relate to music. This includes history, identity, politics, gender, values, community, and religion.
- Identify cultural and societal issues in music in your own lives, communities, and musical endeavors.
- Learn and recall musical terms, styles, and instruments of non-western cultures using correct vocabulary and terminology.
- Identify and recognize the role of non-western music in popular music today.
- Develop critical thinking, writing, and listening skills.

**Attendance Policy**

- Come to class!
- If you are ill, do not come to class! Please communicate with the instructor as promptly as possible.
- Attendance will be taken through the iClicker system.
- Three unexcused/non-emergency absences are permitted without penalty to your grade. After the third unexcused absence there will be a 2% deduction of the final semester grade PER unexcused absence. For example: 4 unexcused absences would result in a 2% deduction, 5 a 4% deduction, etc.
- Work schedules do not constitute an excused absence- plan your schedules accordingly for class and exam dates.
- Excused absences must be communicated to the instructor no later than 24 hours in advance. Excused absences include but are not limited to documented illness, death in the family/family emergency, religious holy days and observations, military duty, jury duty, official university activities, etc. The instructor reserves the right to deem what is considered an excusable absence in accordance with university guidelines. A list of

excused absences can be found under the Policies and Regulations in the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog.

- If you are unsure if your absence would be considered excusable, please do not hesitate to ask!

### **Late Work/Deadlines**

- All deadlines are final unless there is an emergency, official university activity, or academic accommodation that is communicated to and approved by the instructor.
- Please use this course (and any course!) as an opportunity to learn time management and life balance skills for managing your deadlines and assignments.
- If there is an emergency that will affect the submission of assignments/exams, please contact the instructor as promptly as possible.

\*\* Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions about emergencies or scheduling conflicts, but please do so as soon as possible. The sooner I know, the better I can help.

### **Drop Course Policy**

If you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know, and contact the [Registrar's Office](#) to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course. Fall Drop/Withdrawal Deadline is November 3.

### **Incomplete Grade Policy**

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

### **Method of Evaluation/Grading Scale**

- Lecture Responses (quizzes, discussion reflections): 40%
- Reflection Essay: 10%
- Performance Observation: 25%
- Final Paper: 25%

100-90% = A    80-89% = B    70-79% = C    60-69% = D    Below 60% = F

\*Sometimes the grading system for Blackboard only reflects submitted assignments, and therefore may not be an accurate reflection. Please contact me if you would like a report on your grade. If you are at risk for failing the course, you will be notified by the instructor before the class drop date.

## **Technology Requirements**

- You will need a stable internet connection and a trusted device (a computer is recommended) with a good audio source (headphones, external speaker, decent laptop speakers).
- I highly recommend using a computer for assignments and online activities- certain elements of Blackboard, file types, etc. do not always work on mobile devices.
- Word processor/Microsoft Office- written assignments and papers will need to be in a .pdf format.
- If you need any assistance or need to check out equipment for the course, please contact the UTEP Technology Center.

## **Accommodations Policy**

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, email them at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

## **Scholastic Integrity**

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

## **Course Resources**

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

## Technology Resources

- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

## Academic Resources

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [Math Tutoring Center \(MaRCS\)](#): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- [History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.
- [The Miner Learning Center](#): Join peer-led study sessions in person or online to review content and discover study strategies in core curriculum courses.
- [UTEP Edge](#): UTEP's cross-campus framework for student success and empowerment – develops students' assets through high-impact experiences made possible by the expertise and dedication of faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners.

## Individual Resources

- [Student Success Help Desk \(SSHD\)](#): Students experiencing challenges or obstacles to academic success including registration, financial, food, housing, and transportation resources may submit a ticket request assistance to [studentsuccess@utep.edu](mailto:studentsuccess@utep.edu)
- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.
- [UTEP Food Pantry](#): Non-perishable food items are available to students who are currently enrolled in classes. Bring a Miner Gold Card to Memorial Gym, Room 105, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Proposed Course Schedule

\*\* This is a proposed schedule and is subject to change- please maintain a sense of flexibility as we explore the course material! All changes will be promptly and clearly communicated by the instructor.\*\*

<b>Week/Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Region/Country</b>	<b>Assignment/Discussion (outside of Blackboard quizzes)- BB Quizzes after EACH LECTURE</b>
Week 1: 8/29	Intro/Syllabus		
Week 1: 8/31	Music Fundamentals- Dynamics, Rhythm, Melody	Western vs. World	
Week 2: 9/5	Fundamentals- Texture, Harmony, Form	Western vs. World	
Week 2: 9/7	Form, Musical perspectives, World Music Today	Various	Lecture Reflection: Pop album/artist that incorporates world music (Blackboard)
Week 3: 9/12	Identity, Identity in Music	Spain/Mexico, various	
Week 3: 9/14	Gender in Music	Various	
Week 4: 9/19	Music in Religion	Various	
Week 4: 9/21	Politics in Music, Nueva Cancion/Rock	Mexico	
Week 5: 9/26	Documentary/Video		Video Quiz (Blackboard)
Week 5: 9/28	Regional Sones	Mexico	
Week 6: 10/3	Intro- Bali/Indonesia, Religion and Ritual	Bali	
Week 6: 10/5	Balinese instruments/gamelan	Bail/Indonesia	
Week 7: 10/10	India: Instruments, Religion	India	
Week 7: 10/12	India: Rhythm, Tonality	India	
Week 8: 10/17	India: Influence, Documentary	India/America	

Week 8: 10/19	Midterm Discussion/Reflection		Lecture Reflection (Blackboard)
Week 9: 10/23	The Diaspora	Various	
Week 9: 10/25	Africa	Africa	
Week 10: 10/31	Cuba, African Influence/Intersections	Africa, Cuba	
Week 10: 11/2	Santeria	Cuba	Reflection Essay Due
Week 11: 11/7	Afro Cuban and its Influence	Africa, Cuba, America	
Week 11: 11/9	Japan	Japan	
Week 12: 11/14	Japan, Japanese Theatre/Opera, Western Influence	Japan	
Week 12: 11/16	China		Performance Observation Due
Week 13: 11/21	China, Eastern Philosophy Influence	China, America	
Week 13: 11/23	NO CLASS- THANKSGIVING BREAK		
Week 14: 11/28	Klezmer- Identity and Religion		
Week 14: 11/30	Ireland- Jam Session! Bring your instruments!	Ireland	
Week 15: 12/4	World Music, Identity, and Gender in Metal	Various	
Week 15: 12/6	Summary discussion		
Finals Week	Final Paper		Due 12/12 through Blackboard