

MUSIC, CULTURE, and SOCIETY
COURSE SYLLABUS
MUSL 2321, CRN 23238
TR 12:00-1:20pm, FFA 402
Spring 2024
University of Texas at El Paso

Instructor: Dr. Sara Renner

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Office: FFA 132

Office Hours: Mondays 1:30-2:30pm; Thursdays 1:30-2:30pm; by appointment

*Some weeks, office hours may need to be adjusted. Any adjustments will be communicated.

Text:

No required text! Readings will be distributed by the instructor if necessary. Detailed notetaking during lectures is **STRONGLY** recommended and essential for success in this course.

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

- Come to class!
- If you are ill, do not come to class! Please communicate with the instructor as promptly as possible.
- If you miss a class, arrange with a classmate to get notes. Instructor notes/slides are not distributed.
- Attendance starts at 100%. Four unexcused/non-emergency absences are permitted without penalty to your grade. After the fourth unexcused absence, there will be a 5% deduction from your attendance grade PER unexcused absence. For example, if you have five unexcused absences, your attendance grade will be lowered from 100 to 95.
- Work schedules do not constitute an excused absence- plan your schedules accordingly.
- Excused absences must be communicated to the instructor as soon as possible, preferably 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 ask!

Late Work/Deadlines

- No late work will be accepted if the reason is not considered excusable. Work schedules do not count as an excusable reason or situation.
- The instructor reserves the right to determine what is an acceptable situation for any extensions or exemptions. Adjustments to deadlines may be made by the instructor. If so, the instructor will communicate all adjustments via Blackboard and email.
- The instructor reserves the right to deduct points for late submissions in the case of situations that may arise.
- 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 or situation 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.

Communication

- Check for Blackboard announcements and emails DAILY.
- Email and office hours are the best forms of communication for this course. Please send an email instead of a Blackboard message.
- Please include your full name, the course name, and CRN in your email.
- Please consult Blackboard announcements, in-class announcements, and the syllabus before you send an email.

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.
- Technology errors happen! If there is an issue with an assignment submission, take a screenshot of the error for your records and let the instructor know as soon as possible.
- If you need any assistance or need to check out equipment for the course, please contact the UTEP Technology Center.

Method of Evaluation/Grading Scale

- Lecture Responses (quizzes, discussion reflections): 30%
- Reflection Essay: 15%
- Performance Observation: 20%
- Final Paper: 25%
- Attendance: 10%

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.

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. The Spring Drop/Withdrawal Deadline is March 28.

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.

Plagiarism Detecting Software

Some of your course work and assessments may be submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used to review assignment submissions for originality.

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, 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](#).

Artificial Intelligence

- The use of AI is prohibited in this course.
- Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as ChatGPT or DALL-E, is not allowed for assignments in this class. Each student is expected to use critical and creative thinking skills to complete tasks and not rely on computer-generated ideas. Any direct use of AI-generated materials submitted as your own work will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

Course Resources

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. Please refer to the QR code below for a listing of campus resources.



***This syllabus is subject to change at any time. Changes will be communicated by the instructor.

Course Calendar

Week/Date	Topic	Region/Country	Assignment/Discussion (outside of Blackboard quizzes)
Week 1: 1/16	Intro/Syllabus		
Week 1: 1/18	Music Fundamentals- Dynamics, Rhythm, Melody	Western vs. World	
Week 2: 1/23	Fundamentals- Texture, Harmony, Form	Western vs. World	
Week 2: 1/25	Form, Musical perspectives, World Music Today	Various	
Week 3: 1/30	Identity, Identity in Music	Various	
Week 3: 2/1	Gender in Music	Various	Lecture Reflection: Pop album/artist that incorporates world music (Blackboard)
Week 4: 2/6	Music in Religion	Various	
Week 4: 2/8	Video Assignment- NO CLASS MEETING		Video Quiz (Blackboard)
Week 5: 2/13	Politics in Music, Nueva Cancion/Rock	Mexico	
Week 5: 2/15	Regional Sones	Mexico	
Week 6: 2/20	Indonesia- Gamelan	Indonesia	
Week 6: 2/22	Bali- Gamelan Beleganjur	Bali	
Week 7: 2/27	India: Instruments, Religion	India	
Week 7: 2/29	India: Rhythm, Tonality	India	
Week 8: 3/5	India- Popular Music, Influence	India/America	
Week 8: 3/7	Egypt	Egypt	Reflection Essay Due
Week 9: 3/12	NO CLASS- SPRING BREAK		
Week 9: 3/14	NO CLASS- SPRING BREAK		
Week 10: 3/19	The Diaspora	Various	
Week 10: 3/21	Africa	Africa	
Week 11: 3/26	Cuba, African Influence/Intersections	Africa, Cuba	
Week 11: 3/28	Santeria	Cuba	
Week 12: 4/2	Afro Cuban Music and its Influence	Africa, Cuba, America	
Week 12: 4/4	China	China	Performance Observation Due
Week 13: 4/9	Japan- Noh Theatre	Japan	
Week 13: 4/11	Japan- Kabuki Theatre	Japan	
Week 14: 4/16	Eastern Philosophy Influence	Various	
Week 14: 4/18	Diaspora Groups: Klezmer	Various	
Week 15: 4/23	Ireland- Traditional	Ireland	
Week 15: 4/25	Ireland- Revival, Modern influence	Ireland, Various	
Week 16: 4/30	World Music, Identity, and Gender in Metal	Various	
Week 16: 5/2	Things You Never Knew Existed!	Various	
Finals Week	Final Paper		
	**This calendar is subject to change.		
	All changes will be communicated.**		