Justin Sterlacci  
Professor Coppola  
Music Cultures of the World  
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Reflection Paper

I believe that my performance in this class was quite good, as not only did I enjoy the class and was happy with all the work submitted to the class, but also, I believe that the participation I put into class was worth my time. I am proud of the amount of participation I had in the course, as I have been trying to participate more in all my classes to get the best of my education. I believe I could improve upon the forum posts, as I tended to slip a little bit when it came to these posts, however they would get posted. Should I have to take this class again, I would ensure that each forum post was made on time and fleshed out a little bit better. Looking back, I believe I could’ve made each post a little better than what I did. If I invested more time into these forum posts I think I could’ve grasped some of the topics slightly quicker, and for me this topic was Ethnomusicology.

I think that I have grown to have a greater appreciation and understanding of other cultures’ music by taking this course. Throughout the entire semester, I was being shown different cultures that pull from different definitions of what music is and making it into their own. I find this especially interesting, as I am used to Western Music, much like what you’d hear on the radio. To be able to have this understanding of another cultures, it shows a different side of the music, and pulled away some premonitions that I originally had about other cultures music. During the course, there have been a couple things that resonated with me, however the biggest thing that resonated with me was the function of soundscapes and how each place has its own “music” associated with it. I enjoyed the soundscapes project that we did, as it was cool to do a bit of searching into what different places sound like, New York being one of them. Since I moved out of New York when I was 10, it was cool to try and remember what I could about the sounds I heard growing up, and then making that into a presentable soundscape. While a good bit of this class doesn’t pertain to many of my other studies since I am a Cybersecurity major, however the understanding that different cultures do things differently could apply in understanding that other places may have different systems and methods in place, even if it goes against everything I was taught. My outlook on music has changed slightly, as now I have a greater appreciation for music that I once thought was peculiar or didn’t sound like the music from what I knew. Now after gaining some appreciation for African and other countries kind of music, I think that I would be more likely to not only listen to it, but also perform some of those pieces.

Should someone ask me about this class in 10 years, I believe what I would remember most is the soundscapes project as that was one of my favorite things that I did in this class. As I stated earlier, I loved to take a place or idea and make a soundscape from it. For me, learning about music is important because I believe that it can give a better understanding of the world around us. I believe this because music can help shape how people act, think, and talk, and if music has topics that are about the real world, It can drive people to ask questions and push for change, should change be needed. On the other side of this, however, music can also be an outlet for the stress of life, and creating music could help someone mentally or physically. I believe that I will get around an A- in this class, depending on this assignment and the individual project. I think I put in a good amount of effort in this class, and I believe that an A or A- is a reasonable grade for the work I put into the class. Regarding redesigning the course, the only feedback that I could give is, if possible, it could be cool to have more guest speakers to share their music, what drove them to create that music, and how that music shapes the world around it. It was interesting when we had Karima2G in class, and I think people could be more drawn to the class and classwork should a musician they recognize be brought into the class.