

Introduction to Indian Classical Music

Time: TBD

Location: TBD

Student Facilitator: Chirag Dixit – chirag.dixit@email.ucr.edu

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Deborah Wong – dwong@ucr.edu

Course Summary

This course will introduce students to the basics of Hindustani Classical Music through vocal instruction. No musical experience is necessary. Students will be exposed to the concepts of raaga (distinct melodies) and taala (rhythmic cycles). These basic building blocks will be learned through different forms of Hindustani music such as Dhrupad and Khayal. Students will also learn to improvise, a major part of Indian music, in different raagas and styles. This course will focus on vocal performance with some theory interwoven throughout the 10 weeks.

Course Objectives

- Understand what Indian Classical Music is, its different forms, what makes it “classical”, basic history, etc.
- Learn Indian music theory (raaga music). Concepts of sur and swar. Relative scales.
- Be able to sing 2-3 compositions in different raagas. Learn to improvise within a raaga.
- Most importantly, gain an appreciation for Indian Classical Music and music from different cultures.

Assignments/Reading

Practice 2 hours/week. Various recordings and videos online will be assigned for students to understand the various dimensions of Indian Classical Music.

Some reading will be assigned from The Raga Guide by Joep Bor and Music in North India by George E. Ruckert. Materials will be provided.

Tests/Projects

The final will be a final group performance which students will prepare for inside and outside the classroom demonstrating musical and theoretical knowledge. Each student will have an individual role in the group performance.

Grading

Attendance – 30%

Arrive on time and be in class for the full hour.

Participation – 45%

Singing, participating in discussion, asking questions.

Final – 25%

Preparation. Individual taans.

If you have a disability or believe you may have a disability, you can arrange for accommodations by contacting Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at [951-827-4538](tel:951-827-4538) (voice) or specs@ucr.edu (email). Students needing academic accommodations must first register with SSD and provide required disability-related documentation. If you already have approved accommodation(s), you are advised to notify the faculty instructor of record for this course privately.

Calendar

Week	Discussion Topic	Assignments/Reading
Week 1	Introduction to Hindustani Classical Music: theory, history, note practice	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hg6nTQFHf78 Pandit Ravi Shankar https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bKOGFXvTY5E Raga Nand (Anandi Kalyan) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhnxyhfEdGk Full Raga Nand <u>The Raga Guide: What is a Raga?</u>
Week 2	Basics of a Raaga: Aaroh, avroh, merukhand, note practice (palTa)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdcdbYGLz2M Pandit Nikhil Banerjee http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/indi/hd_indi.htm Indian Instruments
Week 3	Introduction to Dhrupad: Composition in Raga Bhoopali	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0S-ca4pSLYY <u>The Raga Guide: Raga Bhupali</u>
Week 4	Dhrupad Composition Practice Structure of compositions	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6U8DAvnHSlc Gundecha Brothers
Week 5	Introduction to Taala: basic taalās (16, 12, 10 beat), percussion instruments (tabla, pakhawaj), counting techniques	http://raag-hindustani.com/Rhythm.html Rhythm. Read and watch videos on webpage
Week 6	Introduction to Khayal: Composition in Raga Bhimpalasi	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvEO0zRhXWI Hanuman Prasad, Rajan, and Sajan Mishra https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-f2LGUzlmNA Pandit Jasraj <u>The Raga Guide: Raga Bhimpalasi</u>
Week 7	Khayal Composition Practice: bandish in taala, taans (improvised phrases)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8UzWjZh7XJo Pandits Rajan & Sajan Mishra https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UH4X11mVk0 Ustad Rashid Khan Ruckert Pages 52-57
Week 8	Khayal Improvisation creating taans	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzIRNtrtpi0 Pandit Jasraj & Pandit Bhimsen Joshi https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TfnOBI2cMjE Pandit Kumar Gandharva https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aPj8nRdJ3B8 Dr. Prabha Atre
Week 9	Review	http://www.parrikar.org/hindustani/bhoopali/ Rajan Parrikar on Bhoopali and Deshkar <u>Understanding Dhrupad</u>
Week 10	Final Performance	