



# MUSI 10200 1, CRES 10200 1 - Introduction to World Music - Instructor(s): Fiona Boyd

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Winter 2024**

Number Enrolled: **18**

Number of Responses: **10**

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## Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

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Creation Date: **Thursday, March 28, 2024**

**What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.**

Comments
Use of ethnography as it relates to musical identity.
We learned how to approach music by actively listening from an ethnomusicologist's standpoint. We learned about many different genres of music and the problems with lumping them under the "world music" category, which is often an economic decision.
I think the ability to look at music through a cultural lens instead of a purely historical lense has greatly improved my ability to critically look at several aspects of music.
Ethnomusicology, music's relationship with social and cultural movements, definition of world music, critical musical and sound analysis
The most important things I learned in this course is how to view modern musical collaborations and hybrid sounds. There is a lot of undiscovered history about the often questionable practices involved in producing the sounds of today, and exploring these relationships further will help me question straightforward concepts in other classes. Furthermore, as an avid music listener I will be sure to measure all characteristics of the compositions rather than solely assessing the pieces for their sonic qualities.
The "genrefication" of world music, explorations of music from various cultures, questions of authenticity and tradition.
I learned about how culture and sociological issues interact with music to a greater extent than I had considered before, as well as methods used in ethnomusicology.
I learned about a variety of types of music as well as what ethnomusicology is all about.
Certainly the thing that resonated the most with me was learning about active listening techniques, since it seems like the most readily applicable thing to my life from the course.
We discussed the history of ethnomusicology and explored music and dance from many different cultures. We explored how cultures interact through their music, what effect they have on each other, and how world music is defined and continues to evolve.

**Describe how aspects of this course (lectures, discussions, labs, assignments, etc.) contributed to your learning.**

Comments
Enhanced.
Lectures were very helpful to go over readings that we did, helping to break down some more complicated concepts.
It provided me with other perspectives on similar articles as well as some more first-hand experience with other kinds of music.
The homework assignments, being research papers, were very insightful and in-depth compared to highly superficial descriptions of current ethnomusicological trends. Furthermore, I loved every single writing assignment through the course as I was allowed to reflect on my own musical history and practically apply an ethnomusicological understanding to a concert review before having a great time writing my final research paper. Additionally, the lectures and discussion posts allowed me to appropriately understand the content through the eyes and ears of my peers.
Lectures and readings were the main source of learning material, and this was enforced through several papers, a listening presentation, and a final project.
The assignments were much more personal and less formal than I was used to, but they helped engage me with the class and reflect on my own experiences with music. The aspect I appreciated most was bringing in guest speakers to share their own insights and research, which helped introduce interesting topics and expand on them in ways the class could not have otherwise. I also appreciated the emphasis on listening and how to listen to music more critically.
The lectures and listening assignments gave me broad exposure to different styles of music from different cultures.
Most of what I learned simply came from reading and focusing on the readings. Another helpful thing was listening to relevant music to be able to hear the sounds we were discussing.
Lectures usually consisted of a short presentation but were mainly discussion-based, focusing on reading that had been assigned before class. We also had one listening presentation and one final project presentation.

## Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	3.70	4.00	0.00%	10.00%	10.00%	80.00%	0.00%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	44.44%	44.44%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.67	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	33.33%	33.33%	22.22%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.22	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	77.78%	22.22%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.44	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	55.56%	44.44%
I felt respected in this class.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	44.44%	55.56%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.22	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	44.44%	44.44%

## Additional comments about the course:

Comments
The course is not just a world music history class, but rather focuses more on some of the ethnomusicological aspects of music from around the world.
I came in expecting to learn about musical analysis, and the course was a lot more geared towards sociology and history than I expected. We did a small amount of talking about things like pitch, tone, types of rhythms, etc. but the vast majority of the assignments were focused on the cultural context behind the music. I thought it was well-organized and the material was interesting, and the class is accessible for everyone, but I just don't think I learned very much about musical analysis.
Even though this course was a core requirement, I thoroughly enjoyed all of the content and found myself more interested in the intersection of music and academia overall.
I think the only reason that it didn't challenge me intellectually is because I wasn't particularly interested in the material so I didn't give it significant mental energy. I think I would have found it more interesting if it was a class purely about getting use to and learning about various musical cultures around the world as opposed to the more academic, ethnomusicological approach the class took.

## I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	10.00%	90.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	0.00%	100.00%

## Thinking about your time in the class, what aspect of the instructor's teaching contributed most to your learning?

Comments
Professor Boyd gave background information about readings to help contextualize them, and helpful feedback on assignments in addition to incorporating discussion posts into class to keep everyone engaged.
She would always try to get everyone involved in conversation about the music so sometimes we had new perspectives that we wouldn't have heard without her persistence.
Fiona facilitated good discussions and brought in interesting guest lecturers. She encouraged everyone to participate, paid attention to our comments, and was fair about giving feedback on assignments. The class and assignments were very open-ended but it was well-organized regardless.
The instructor did a great job of promoting an authentic portrayal of a wide variety musical techniques and genres. Clearly, the instructor was highly interested in the topic and I feel that her interest enabled my continued interest in the topics outside of the course going forward.
Prof. Boyd is a great lecturer and is super nice/accommodating. Really appreciated how she facilitated class discussions.
Definitely Professor Boyd's openness to ideas and the freedom she allowed on assignments, along with guest lectures.
The group discussions contributed most to my learning since they helped me unpack the readings and further my knowledge.
Probably just listening to the music we were discussing/watching videos of performances.
I learned the most directly from the readings and listening to how other people interpreted them. Professor Boyd didn't often directly interject herself into discussion, letting us discuss and come to conclusions on our own.

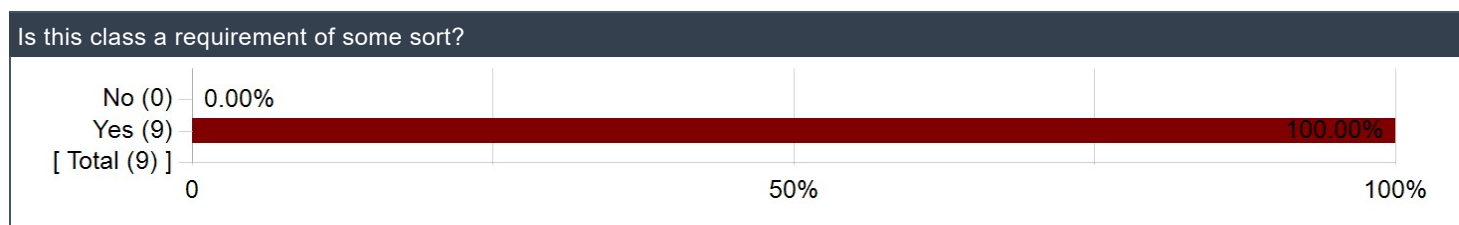
## What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Nothing
Especially in the first few classes, it felt like there was a lot of pressure since it was such an open room with a bunch of strangers. This made me less willing to talk several times, so maybe a different style of classroom set up would be beneficial.
I believe that the instructor could involve more music in the course. While the academic readings and enhanced understandings of the content were greatly appreciated from my point of view, I feel that the course should have more closely followed its sonic origins. Actually engaging with the examples of sonic hybridity would have definitely enhanced the overall great experienc.
n/a
The instructor could provide more listening examples in class that differ from the homework to provide more exposure.
Again, I don't really think it was an instructor problem as much as a me problem.
Perhaps a bit more structure in the discussion would allow the class time to flow a bit more smoothly.

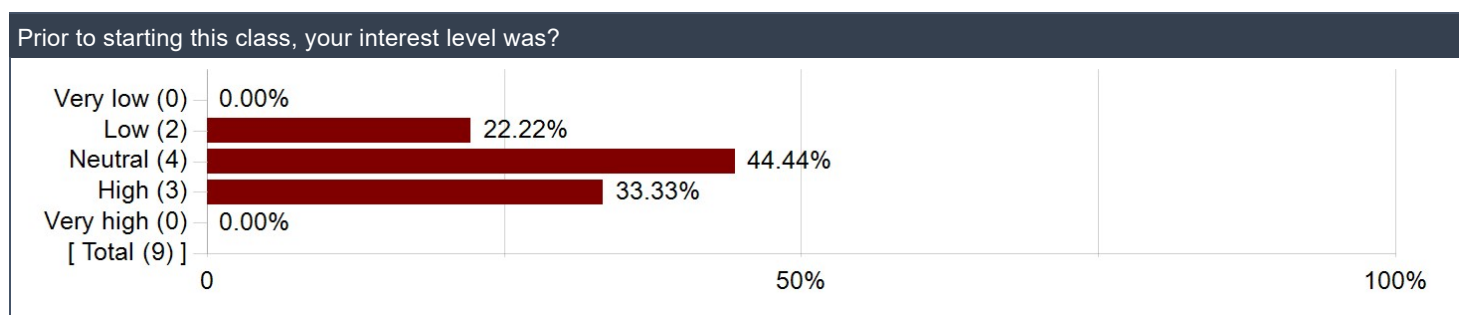
## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.44	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	55.56%	44.44%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.33	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	44.44%	44.44%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.44	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	55.56%	44.44%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.11	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	33.33%	44.44%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	3.89	4.00	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	33.33%	33.33%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.22	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	33.33%	44.44%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.38	5.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	22.22%	55.56%	11.11%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	33.33%	55.56%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.33	5.00	0.00%	11.11%	0.00%	33.33%	55.56%	0.00%

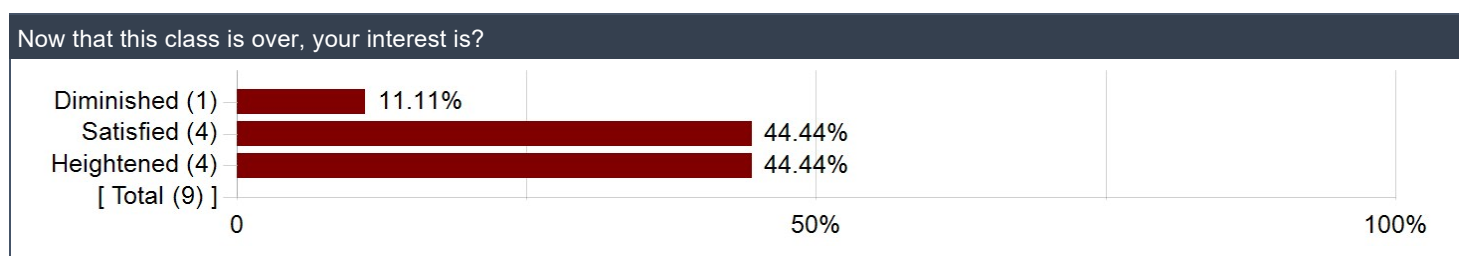
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



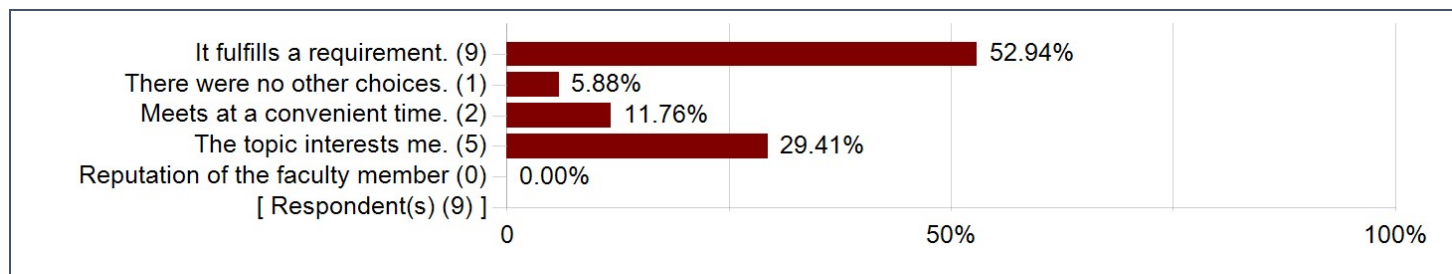
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



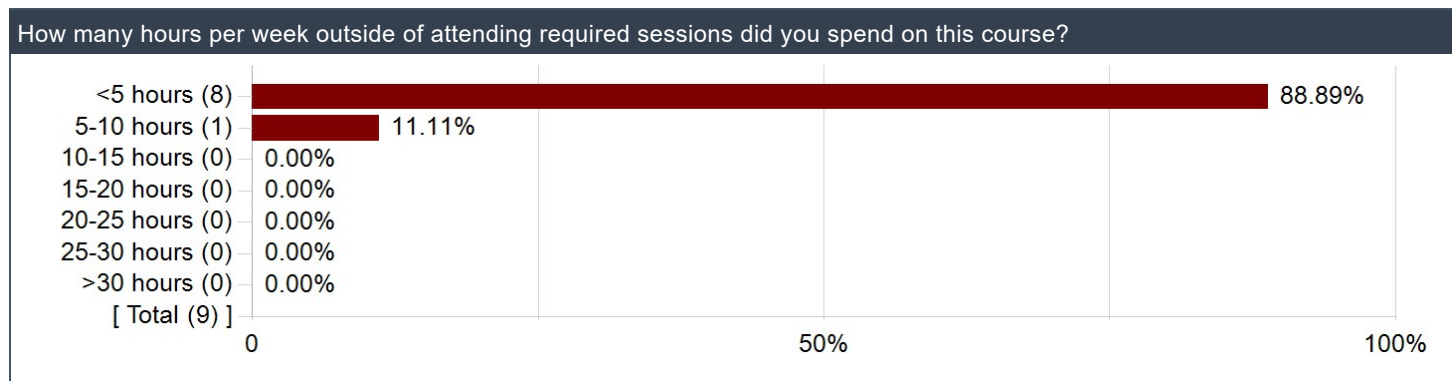
## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



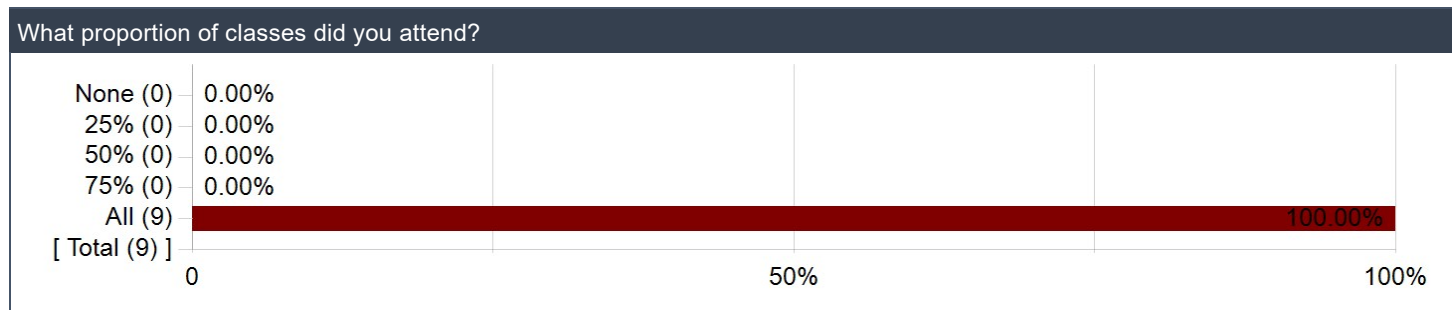
### Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



### How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?



### What proportion of classes did you attend?



### Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
I had no background in music and the class did not require any. I found it easy to understand despite not knowing much about music itself.
The reading can be a bit lengthy at times but is manageable in the end. The actual assignments are very manageable.
The course is far more far-reaching and thought-provoking than a typical arts course. Prepare to be engaged throughout the course for the most rewarding experience.
No need for prior music experience.
Honestly, it wasn't too difficult since I do have experience analyzing art through a sociological and cultural lens, but it was interesting to learn about cultures and music I was unfamiliar with.
I found this course to be not too hard which I appreciated for something well outside my interests.
It was difficult for me to understand much of what we read, which tracks with my absolutely minimal background.
Not a difficult course, just lots of reading.

