

The World of Music:

MUSHL 107, section 2

Instructor: George Murer
E-Mail: gm1284@hunter.cuny.edu
Office: HN 403
Office Hours: By e-mail appointment

Course Overview

This course is designed to survey the breadth and diversity, globally, of

what we call music. The emphasis in the organization of the course is

on frames of interactivity: how can we characterize and experience local musical practices on their own terms but also how do these local environments encounter one another, or resonate with one another,

shedding light on common social, political, and ritual agendas? In considering some of these broad questions as we move from one genre or locale to another, the focus will be on developing students' abilities to identify, describe, and discuss music, in terms of both style and cultural context, in order to understand its complex role in human

sociality and cultural development. In this class, we will investigate human diversity, ingenuity, and artistry through the lens of music, dance, and related performing arts, highlighting ways in which music and dance are interrelated spheres of cultural and individual

Materials:

1. *World Music: A Global Journey* by
Terry E. Miller and Andrew

Edition. New York:

Routledge, 2016. 3-CD set included.

Grading Policy:

1. **Final quiz: 15%**
2. **Midway quiz: 15%**
3. **Short paper 20%**
4. **Concert report 20%**
5. **Participation: 30%**

expression, often intertwined with other ("practical," ceremonial, political) elements of human life.

Learning Goals

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify and describe the instruments, techniques, performance practices, and compositional forms associated with a variety of musical art forms.

2. Understand and explain how these musical practices shape and are shaped by historical and social dynamics, by framing them critically in the context of issues such as globalization, religion, politics, tradition, gender, race, and ethnicity.

3. Recognize and describe different modes of human social transmission and cultural categorization, and show how these forms have been articulated in several musical traditions.

Grades are assigned per the Hunter grading system:

97.5-110: A+

92.5-97.4: A

90.0-92.4: A-

87.5-89.9: B+

82.5-87.4: B

80.0-82.4: B-

77.5-79.9: C+

70.0-77.4: C

60.0-69.9: D

0.0-59.9: F

4. Use their listening skills to situate musical performances in their broader geocultural contexts.

7. **No food or drink (other than water) is allowed in our classroom, 404 N.**

Requirements & Rules

Hunter College Policy on Academic Integrity

Though much of our class time will be devoted to listening to and analyzing musical life, there is no expectation that students have any prior 'knowledge' of music, such as an ability to read Western staff notation, sight-read, or play an instrument. All students with prior musical ability are encouraged to share their knowledge with the class, regardless of background, expertise, or tradition!

1. **Come to all classes prepared** to discuss the assigned readings, audio examples, and any other relevant media. Please be ready to participate in classroom musical activities, including clapping rhythms or pulses; singing melodic phrases or scales; and answering questions based on those materials. Participation is a significant portion of your grade. Reading and listening assignments are absolutely essential to your ability to both participate actively in the class and succeed on the tests.
2. **Participation is a key part of this class** and in order to participate, you must be in class. We have 24 regular class meetings this semester. **Conspicuous lack of attendance will affect your grade.** If there is a reason for your absence, please bring it to my attention.
3. **Feel free to bring your cell phone, tablet, or computer to class, but please do not use phones, tablets, or computers to distract yourself from the lesson and discussion.**
4. **There will be two quizzes.**
5. **Written assignments**—one short paper and a concert report—form a **major** part of your grade. Details on each assignment will be given at least three weeks before they are due.
6. **Late assignments will be graded lower.**

a. **Blackboard:** Our class has a Blackboard site, on which you will find all the latest details for assignments, quizzes and any revisions to the syllabus. I will post all the necessary listening examples there. Please make sure that you have access to the site as soon as possible though the Hunter website. **Blackboard will be the most up-to-date place for assignments. You should check there, particularly for listening assignments, in case things change from the syllabus.**

b. Also, be sure that your current e-mail address is registered there, since I will use Blackboard to contact class members with any important announcements.

c. Please arrive at class promptly.

d. Note that this syllabus is a guide for this course and that with the exception for changes that substantially change the grading policy of the course, it is subject to change with advance notice on Blackboard. Revised versions of the syllabus will be posted immediately.

e. **Listening Examples:** Listening examples are as important as the assigned readings. We will devote much of our class meetings to aural and visual analysis of musical examples. Please make every effort to listen seriously to each example before class, as we will go through them fairly quickly.

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

College and Departmental Grading Policies

All students are required to be present for the final examination as scheduled by the Office of the Registrar. No exceptions.

In the Music Department, the grade of incomplete is granted only in cases of serious, documented emergencies, and then only when permission has been obtained in writing from the Department Chair, no later than one week before the final class meeting.

Students who wish to withdraw from a class with a grade of W may do so by submitting a withdrawal form with the required signatures to Oasis by the announced deadline (around the 8th week of class). Withdrawal after the deadline is allowed only in cases of serious emergency and must be approved by Student Services. Students who stop attending a class without withdrawing officially will receive grades of WU, which count the same as F. The Music Department does not support requests to have grades of WU changed retroactively to W.

In courses for the music major: (1) all courses require a minimum grade of C in all prerequisite courses and (2) a course may not be taken more than twice without departmental permission, which is granted only in exceptional circumstances (similar to those that justify the IN).

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

In compliance with the ADA and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Hunter is committed to ensuring educational access and accommodations for all its registered students. Hunter College's students with disabilities and medical conditions are encouraged to register with the Office of AccessABILITY for assistance and accommodation. For information and appointment contact the Office of AccessABILITY located in Room E1214 or call (212) 772-4875 or (212) 650-3230.

Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct

In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College reaffirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationships. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

Reading Schedule and Course Calendar

NOTE: All readings and listening assignments must be completed before class meetings. All readings refer to the fourth edition of the textbook.

I. Introduction and Fundamentals

January 27 — **Introduction to Class**

January 30 — **Chapter 1** (1-14)

February 3 — **Chapter 2: Music Fundamentals and Thematic Concepts** (15-30)

February 6 — **Chapter 3: Cultural Considerations** (31-53)

II. Oceania, South Asia, and Southeast Asia

February 10— **Chapter 4** (55-78)

February 13 — **Chapter 5 part 1** (79-101)

February 17— **NO CLASS (college closed)**

February 20—**Chapter 5 part 2** (102-112)

February 24—**Chapter 6 part 1** (115-146)

February 27—**Chapter 6 part 2** (147-159)

III. East and Inner Asia

March 2— **Chapter 7 part 1** (161-191)

March 5— **Chapter 7 part 2** (191-194; Blackboard)

March 9— **Chapter 7 part 3** (195-217)/**Quiz 1**

IV. The Middle East and Europe

March 12—[**COVID-19 DISRUPTION**]

March 16— [**COVID-19 DISRUPTION**]

March 19 — **Chapter 8 part 1** (219-227; 241-250) [**CLASSES HELD ON ZOOM FROM HERE**]

March 23 — **Chapter 8 part 2** (228-231; 236-240)

March 26 — **Chapter 8 part 3** (232-235, Blackboard)

March 30 — **No class**

April 2— **Chapter 9 part 1** (253-271)

April 6 — **Chapter 9 part 1** (272-292)

[SPRING RECESS]

V. Africa

April 13—**Chapter 10 part 1** (295-313)

April 16— **Chapter 10 part 2** (314-336)

VI. The Western Hemisphere

April 20 — **Chapter 11 part 1** (339-362)

April 23 — **Chapter 11 part 2** (363-379)

April 27— **Chapter 12** (381-411)

April 30 **Chapter 12, 13** (382-391, 459-468)

May 4— **Chapter 13** (413-458)

VII. Popular Music

May 7— **Global Popular Music Flows** (reading on Blackboard)

May 11 — **Music, Cultural/Political Activism, and Media** (reading on Blackboard)

May 14— **Cont'd and Review**

FINAL EXAM (Quiz 2):

THURSDAY MAY 21: 1:45PM-3:45PM