Course Description:

This course will begin to explore music in its cultural and social contexts. The aim of the course is to focus not only on “what” music is, but on the “whys,” “hows,” “wheres,” “whens” and “with whom” of music-making. Ethnomusicology asks questions about what music means as a social process and how these meanings are conveyed among teachers, practitioners, and audiences. Many musical traditions from around the world will be incorporated into this course in order to illustrate music’s role in issues including identity formation, technology, commodification, conflict and resolution, etc.

Requirements: This is an open enrollment class, which means no prior musical education is required. There is no required textbook, but a reading list is attached, grouped by weekly topic discussion. Many of these readings are accessible online through your UWO library account, but they will also be posted on the course’s OWL site.

Assignments:

- Listening Report (minimum 2 submitted to OWL).................................................................10%
  *First report must be submitted no later than October 25th*

- Thick Description/Live Music attendance.................................................................15%
  October 4

- Essay Proposal (2 pages plus working bibliography).........................................................10%
  November 1

- Test.................................................................................................................................15%
  November 15

- Essay (10-12 pages).........................................................................................................20%
  November 29

- Exam.................................................................................................................................30%
  TBD
A course area for 3713A has been set up. You must use OWL for this course as I will be uploading announcements, readings, listening excerpts and necessary course materials on an ongoing basis. It is also the forum for our listening reports, which are intended as a way to share our listening experiences as a class as well as continuing conversation that can sometimes be limited within lecture time. Grades and other information are also available. If you have trouble with access, notify me before the second complete week of class.

**Assistance**
If you need clarification about what I say in class/on your assignments, you are encouraged to ask in class for the benefit of others, but otherwise please see me. My office hours are above. If it isn’t possible for you to see me during these hours, please make an appointment. I try to respond to all emails within 24 hours on weekdays, but be responsible for yourself and give yourself enough time to adjust if you don’t receive the response you want (or when you want it). Accommodations can be made for legitimate excuses, but these “legitimate excuses”, according to Western’s policies, will generally require documentation (see below).

- Assignments are due by the **beginning of class** (7pm) according to the assignment schedule. Electronic submissions are acceptable but MUST abide by the same schedule. A loss of 10% per day to a maximum of 10 days will be applied to ALL late assignments.

- During the test and final exam NO electronic devices may be used

**Scholastic Offences**
Please refer to [www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/rights_responsibilities.html](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/rights_responsibilities.html) and follow the links to Scholastic Discipline and Code of Student Conduct in order to familiarize yourself with the definition of a scholastic offence. Scholastic Offences are taken very seriously and are as often the result of ignorance as they are a matter of intent. Be informed.

**Plagiarism**
Plagiarism is deceptive, dishonest, disrespectful and detrimental and it will be taken very, very seriously in this course.

Western’s policy on plagiarism states that “all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism.”

Do not use anything without referencing it—conversations, online videos, websites, articles, books, other essays, audio. Consult a style manual or make use of the university’s writing centre if you are unsure about citation conventions.

**Mental Health**
If you are experiencing distress, please refer to Mental Health@Western for a list of options ([www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth](http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth)). Do not hesitate to make use of a complete list of services available to you.

**Medical Accommodation**
University policy states that if a student is unable to complete any work representing 10% or more of the course’s overall grade, s/he is asked to submit medical documentation, as soon as possible, to the Dean’s office along with a request for relief/accommodation. For detailed instructions, consult the University’s Policy for Accommodation for Medical Illness ([www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/rights_responsibilities.html](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/rights_responsibilities.html))

Without documentation, missed assignments, tests, exams will receive a grade of zero.
Lecture Schedule

September 13..........................What is Ethnomusicology?
September 20..........................Fieldwork and Transcription
September 27..........................Music and Conflict
October 4..............................Identity Formation
  • Thick Description Due
October 11............................Gender
October 18.............................Religion and Ritual
October 25.............................Commodification and Consumption
  • First Listening Report Due on OWL
November 1...........................Musical Migrations, Hybrid Processes
  • Essay proposal Due
November 8...........................Indigenous Musical Practices
November 15..........................Technology and Media
  • Test
November 22..........................Fun & Games
November 29..........................Music and Global Contexts
  • Essay due
December 6...........................Review
Listening Reports

The idea behind this assignment is two-fold: (a) think about music. (b) share music.

Students are asked to use OWL to participate in a musical conversation, one track at a time, and link them to any of the themes discussed in this course. Direct your classmates (and your instructor!) to a track either by providing the appropriate online address or by uploading a musical excerpt. Discuss this track (approximately 1 pg) in terms that demonstrate that you’ve thought about the music. You may choose to discuss any number of its musical and/or sociocultural elements. Alternatively, you may decide to use one of your reports to respond to an existing post and engage with the thoughts of one of your classmates. The primary criteria are that everyone can hear the example you’re talking about and that you have spent some time thinking about it. There are a minimum of two submissions, but you are permitted and encouraged to continue submitting infinitely. First post due on or before October 25th

Some fabulous resources are the Smithsonian folkways site, The Garland Encyclopedia of World Music, The Canadian Centre for Ethnomusicology at the University of Alberta, National Film Board of Canada and Naxos Music Library.

Thick Description

The idea behind this assignment is to encourage ethnographic observation. Attend a live music event (minimum duration 45 minutes). Describe as thickly as possible any and all experiential elements (stage banter, clothing, venue, audience members, sound texture, interpersonal observations, time, etc). You will likely need to take notes at this event and flesh them out into a submission-worthy paper after the event. You must provide the date, time, venue and title of the event. Length of this assignment may vary depending on the event and your experiences, but a suggested length is 2-5 pages. Due October 4th

Essay

Essay topics, guidelines and expectations will be distributed and discussed in class by September 27.