

MUSIC 2671G

Music Across Cultures

Winter 2023

Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 11:30am-12:20pm in Talbot College 141

Instructor: Dr. April Morris

Email: amorri95@uwo.ca

Office: Talbot College, Room 230

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:30-3:30pm (in person and on Zoom)

Zoom Office Hours link: <https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/93203421468>

Graduate Teaching Assistants: Ala Krivov (akrivov@uwo.ca); Sonja Maurer-Dass (sdass2@uwo.ca); Andre McEvenue (amceven@uwo.ca); Mark McCorkle (mmccorkl@uwo.ca); Zhengyi Zhu (zzhu455@uwo.ca)

Course Description:

This course introduces musical practices from around the world in their social, historical, theoretical, and aesthetic dimensions. By exploring examples of popular, folk, and classical music from a range of geographical areas and cultural backgrounds, students will gain an understanding of both the diversity of global musical traditions and the ways in which these traditions are often intertwined. Over the course of the semester, students will develop vocabulary that will allow them to respectfully engage with diverse musical cultures, as well as an understanding of how cultural concepts and trends have impacted the development and practice of global musical traditions.

Objectives:

1. Develop an understanding of the diversity of global musical traditions and the ways in which these traditions are often intertwined.
2. Increase critical awareness of global issues and their impact on musical traditions.
3. Develop mechanisms to approach music in its cultural, social, theoretical, and aesthetic dimensions.
4. Grow understanding of what “music” means in different global contexts and experience different ways of conceptualizing musical sound.
5. Develop skills in academic research and in communicating ideas about music both orally and in written form.

Course Materials:

All materials will be available through the course OWL site. There is no textbook for this course. Each week, a selection of readings, videos, and musical examples will be posted on the OWL site. Students are expected to review these materials before coming to class.

Evaluation:

Quizzes (online)	25%
Tutorial Participation	15%
Short Written Assignment	15%
Artifact Assignment	10%
Final Paper Meeting	5%
Final Paper Outline	10%
Final Paper	20%

Assessment Summary:

1. Quizzes: At the end of each unit, you will be asked to complete a quiz on OWL. These quizzes will assess your understanding of the material discussed in class. Each quiz will be worth 5% of your final grade. While the quiz is open, you may retake it as often as you like until you are satisfied with your grade.
2. Tutorial Participation: This portion of your grade is based on your attendance and participation at five TA-led tutorials. Students are expected to come to tutorials prepared to engage in activities and discussions. Tutorial dates are marked with bolded text on the course schedule.
3. Short Written Assignment: (1000-1200 words, submit on OWL by **5:00pm on Tuesday, January 31st**) Write a short essay on a musical work that has not been covered in class, and that is not a work of Western art music or mainstream popular music from North America or Western Europe. Your essay should cite at least 3 scholarly sources. Choose one of the following areas of focus:
 - a) **A work that is a hybrid of two or more musical traditions**: How do these musical traditions combine? Explain in detail which features of each musical tradition are present. What does this combination of musical traditions tell us about the artist(s) that created it and the context of its creation?
 - b) **A work that engages with politics**: Explain in detail the musical features of this work and how these features contribute to its efficacy as a political tool. How do the lyrics (if any) contribute to the political message of this work? In what political contexts has this work been used or performed? How did the artist(s) that created it envision it being used?
4. Artifact Assignment: (3-4 minutes, submit on OWL by **5:00pm on Tuesday, February 28th**) Choose an artifact with significance to a musical tradition that is not Western art music or mainstream popular music from North America or Western Europe to include in our virtual museum. Your artifact could be any object with connections to music making (e.g., an instrument, a document, a garment). This assignment has two parts: a 3- to 4-minute audio guide recording that describes your artifact to museum goers, and a document that includes a picture of your artifact and a bibliography showing 3 sources you consulted. What is the significance of this artifact to the musical tradition from which it originates? Where, when, and by whom is has it been used?
5. Final Paper: Write an essay on any subject related to the themes of this course. You may choose to examine a specific work or musical tradition, or to consider a broader issue

drawing on multiple examples as support. Your essay may discuss music from any tradition other than North American or European art music or popular music. Your bibliography for this essay must include at least 3 scholarly sources. This assignment is divided into 3 parts:

- a) Final Paper Meeting (must occur during the month of **February**). Attend a one-on-one meeting with your TA. Bring to your meeting a short (200-300 words) description of your paper topic and the research question you plan to address, as well as a preliminary bibliography of sources you might use to research your paper. In order to receive the full grade for this meeting, you must attend your meeting with both your paper topic description and your preliminary bibliography.
- b) Final Paper Outline (submit on OWL by **5:00pm on Tuesday, March 7th**). Submit an outline of your final paper including a draft thesis statement, a detailed overview of each paragraph, and a working bibliography.
- c) Final Paper (1500-2000 words, submit on OWL by **5:00pm on Tuesday, April 4th**)

Course Delivery:

On tutorial dates (marked **in bold** on the class schedule), students will attend tutorials led by the course's Teaching Assistants. These tutorials will provide an opportunity for students to ask questions about course material, engage in discussions and interactive activities, and discuss writing. Attendance and participation at tutorials are mandatory. Information about your TA and the room for your tutorial group will be distributed in the first week of class.

Each geographical unit concludes with a "discussion session." These classes provide an opportunity to explore the music of the unit through activities, discussions, and reflection in a large group setting. We will also use these sessions to discuss writing and research.

Course Policies:

i) **Course Prerequisites: Music 1710F/G and either Music 2651A/B or the former Music 2649A/B.** Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

ii) **Grading scale:** A+=90-100%, A=80-89%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, D=50-59%, F=0-49%.

iii) **Academic Consideration for Student Absence & Missing Work (≥10%):** Students are responsible for making up any missed classes or assignments as soon as possible. The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work

representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC210), together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. Students are directed to read the Senate policy on accommodation for medical illness at the following website for further details regarding requirements and procedures for the supporting documentation:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

iv) **Academic Consideration for Missing Work (<10%):** In cases where students miss work that is worth less than 10% of the total course grade (ie. two or fewer assignments) due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if documentation is voluntarily submitted to the Associate Dean's office and the Associate Dean grants an accommodation, then the missed assignment(s) or quiz(zes) will be discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course. If documentation is not voluntarily submitted then the missed assignment(s) will receive a grade of zero. Students who have been denied accommodation by an instructor may appeal this decision to the Associate Dean's office but will be required to present appropriate documentation.

v) **Academic Offences:** Submission of work with which you have received help from someone else (other than the course instructor or TA) is an example of plagiarism, which is considered a major academic offence. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as found at:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

vi) **Mental Health & Wellness:** Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to the Health and Wellness at Western page (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help or to go to the Wellness Education Centre located in UCC room 76. **Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in UC11 or to click on the green "I Need Help Now" button on the Health and Wellness page above.**

vii) **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Students work with Accessible Education Western (AEW, formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

viii) **Religious Accommodation:** Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar. <http://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

ix) **Contingency Plan:** Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 restrictions may necessitate some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

x) **Gender-Based and Sexual Violence:** Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence, either recently or in the past, you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca or call 519 661-3568.

xi) **Electronic Devices in Classrooms:** The in-class use of electronic devices (other than for instructor-approved in-class uses) is expressly prohibited. Students found guilty of disrupting the class with electronic devices will be asked to leave the class and may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

xii) **Plagiarism Detection Software Usage:** 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. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).

xiii) **Computer-marked Multiple-choice Tests or Exams:** These may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

xiv) **Course Policy on Late Submissions:** Students are expected to submit assessments by the given deadline. To allow for issues with technology, etc., each assignment will be accepted until 11:59pm on the day of the assignment deadline with no penalty. After that time, late assignments will not be accepted without the appropriate documentation for Academic Consideration or Academic Accommodation (see policies iv and vii above).

Class Schedule

Tuesday, January 10th – Introduction

Thursday, January 12th – Exploring Global Musics: Listening, Discussing, Writing

Friday, January 13th – Globalization and Authenticity

Tuesday, January 17th – Instruments

UNIT 1: Latin America

Thursday, January 19th – Tango

Friday, January 20th – Tutorial

Tuesday, January 24th – Narcocorridos

Thursday, January 26th – Colombian Hip Hop

Friday, January 27th – Unit 1 discussion session

UNIT 2: India and Pakistan

Tuesday, January 31st – Bhangra

Thursday, February 2nd – Bollywood

Friday, February 3rd – Tutorial

Tuesday, February 7th – Indian Music and the Tabla (Guest: Ritesh Das, Toronto Tabla Ensemble)

Thursday, February 9th – Indian Classical Music

Friday, February 10th – Unit 2 discussion session

UNIT 3: Indigenous and Folk Musics of Turtle Island/North America

Tuesday, February 14th – Indigenous Pop Music in Canada

Thursday, February 16th – Local Indigenous Musical Traditions (Guest: Gordon Sands, Eagle Flight Singers)

Friday, February 17th – Tutorial

---READING WEEK---

Tuesday, February 28th – Black Music and the Impact of the Blues

Thursday, March 2nd – Urban Indigeneity and Protest Music

Friday, March 3rd – Unit 3 discussion session

UNIT 4: Sub-Saharan Africa

Tuesday, March 7th – Ritual and History

Thursday, March 9th – Mbira

Friday, March 10th – Tutorial

Tuesday, March 14th – African Drumming Techniques (Guest: Rob Larose)

Thursday, March 16th – Diversity in African Musical Traditions

Friday, March 17th – Unit 4 discussion session

UNIT 5: East and Southeast Asia

Tuesday, March 21st – Traditional Music in South Korea

Thursday, March 23rd – Music in North Korea

Friday, March 24th – Tutorial

Tuesday, March 28th – Pop music

Thursday, March 30th – Gamelan

Friday, March 31st – Unit 5 discussion session

CONCLUSIONS

Tuesday, April 4th – Migration, Diaspora, and Musicking

Thursday, April 6th – Conclusion and Review