

Music 3864B: Drumming Across Cultures – Winter 2022

Course Instructor: Robert Darcy Larose; rlarose@uwo.ca

Office Hours: By Appointment, TC319, ex82043

Class Meeting Time: Thursdays 12:30-3:30, beginning January 6, 2022

Room: MB 27

Course Description;

Open to non-music majors with no prior musical training or percussion expertise, this introductory world music course will focus on the drumming music of Africa, Brazil, Latin America and the Middle East with students participating in **hands on performance**. Students will learn the correct playing procedures for a variety of percussion instruments including hand drums, bells, and shakers. Basic rhythmic reading and notation will be taught. The rich cultural history of these traditions will be explored to help students better understand the roots and origins of the music.

This course will focus on teaching students to play within small and large ensemble settings and will focus on the process of music making rather than obtaining professional result. Students will be allowed to demonstrate learned skills individually as well. The course culminates with a public (group) performance in lieu of a final exam.

It is now required that students have a suitable hand drum for individual practice times as well as for Thursday class instruction. The instructor will discuss appropriate drums for rent or purchase at first class and post suggestions on OWL beforehand. A copy of the text Rob Larose's Latin Thing is also required for the unit on Latin Percussion and available from the instructor for \$20. Other small instruments such as shakers and bells will be provided.

Evaluation Summary:

Class attendance 15% (1.5 x 10)

Online quizzes 20% (4 x 5%)

Small ensemble class presentations 30% (3 x 10%)

Video submission/composition 10%

Final Recital 25 % (scheduled during last day of class)

Attendance

As this is a 'hands on' course regular participation is mandatory. We learn together in ensembles both large and small. Class attendance will be taken January 13 to March 24 with 1.5% awarded for each class. The last class on March 31 is our mandatory final performance.

On-Line Quiz

These are on-line, open book quizzes focusing on cultural as well as musical aspects of drumming.

Some rhythmic notation will also be included in these quizzes. There is one quiz for each of the 4 units covered;

West Africa, The Middle East, Cuba and Brazil

They will be administered through OWL, will open Friday at 6am and close Saturday at 6am.

Small Group Performance

In the first 3 units, you will be required to perform in a small group setting demonstrating the various ensemble rhythms in a short arrangement style. These will be done during class time in front of supportive peers. Practice time and guidance will be provided.

Video Submission/composition

You will be asked to submit a video recording of yourself performing on hand drums. This video will demonstrate your practical application of any hand drumming techniques and rhythms covered in class while being creative and fun. Requirements for the video will be set by the instructor and you will have adequate time to prepare this outside of scheduled class time. It is due April 1, 2022.

Final Recital

The course will culminate in a final group recital, open to the public, on Thursday March 31 at 2pm in MB 27 (our regular class room) Attendance is mandatory. You will be assessed on your preparation, performance and presentation.

Aside from one creative video submission and the 4 on-line quizzes, all evaluations take place in class, during class time. These include the 3 small group performances and the final class performance on March 31, 2022.

It is imperative that class be attended in order to achieve full marks. If you are not well, please follow only the proper channels set by the university for any academic considerations. By all means, do not email the instructor asking for leniency.

For your convince I have included the policy on medical illness, in this document.

Goals- Course Structure – Practicing:

Course Outline – Winter 2022

<u>Class 1, Africa</u>	January 6
12:30 – 1:50pm	Seating arrangements, attendance, types of drums allowed, course outline, basic 4/4 rhythmic notation.
2:00-3:20 Repertoire	Hand Drum open and bass tones. Call and Response. African <i>Gahu</i> stick drumming technique.
Evaluation	none

<u>Class 2</u>	January 13
12:30 – 1:50pm	Hand drum techniques continued, rhythms of <i>Ballet Creole</i> in 6/8 using hand drums. Elements of 6/8 notation. Cultural references.
2:00-3:20 Repertoire	<i>Gahu</i> Ensemble as well as <i>Ballet Creole</i> .
Evaluation	On- Line Quiz 5%

<u>Class 3</u>	January 20
12:30 – 1:50pm	Class ensemble work on <i>Gahu</i> and <i>Ballet Creole</i>
2:00-3:20 Repertoire	Small Group practice and present to class - one of either <i>Gahu</i> or <i>Ballet Creole</i>
Evaluation	Group performance (part of the 30% course grade) Reflection paragraph

<u>Class 4, Middle East</u>	January 27
12:30 – 1:50pm	Dumbek technique. Notation in 8/4, 4/4, and 2/4.
2:00-3:20 Repertoire	Masmoudi, Maqsum and Malfuf rhythms.
Evaluation	none

<u>Class 5</u>	February 3
12:30 – 1:50pm	Review above dumbek techniques and rhythms. Cultural references.
2:00-3:20 Repertoire	Class arrangement using middle eastern dance rhythms.
Evaluation	On-line quiz 5%

<u>Class 6</u>	February 10
12:30 – 1:50pm	Review above techniques and create small group arrangements.
2:00-3:20 Repertoire	Small Group practice and present Middle East ensemble arrangements to class.
Evaluation	Group performance (part of 30% of course grade) Reflection paragraph

Class 7, Cuban Son	February 17
12:30 – 1:50pm	Hand drum open, bass and slap tones. Son Clave in 3-2 and 2-3. Bell patterns, maracas, guiro techniques. Cultural references.
2:00-3:20 Repertoire	Cuban Son music, <i>Cha-Cha</i>
Evaluation	none

Reading Week February 19-27, 2022

<u>Class 8</u>	March 3
12:30 – 1:50pm	The Tumbao pattern for congas. The Martillo for bongos. Bongo Bell . Locked Rhythms, Abanico and features of Latin Music.
2:00-3:20 Repertoire	The Cha-Cha, mambo, and other traditional music of Cuba
Evaluation	On-line quiz 5%

<u>Class 9</u>	March 10
12:30 – 1:50pm	Review the Tumbao, Martillo and Clave patterns.
2:00-3:20 Repertoire	Ensemble work - Same as week 8
Evaluation	Group performance (part of 30% of course grade) Reflection paragraph

<u>Class 10, Brazil</u>	March 17
12:30 – 1:50pm	Elements of Samba and Bossa Nova. Playing techniques for surdo, tamborim, ago-go bells, caixa, and other battery instruments. Notation of patterns.
2:00-3:20 Repertoire	Simple class arrangement of <i>Samba Batucada</i>
Evaluation	none.

<u>Class 11</u>	March 24
12:30 – 1:50pm	Cultural references
2:00-3:20 Repertoire	<i>Samba Batucada</i> class arrangement
Evaluation	On-line Quiz 5%

<u>Class 12</u>	March 31
12:30 – 1:50pm	Set up for Final Recital Performance in Music Room 27. Warm Up and Practice.
2:00-3:00 Repertoire	Final Recital in MB 27. Four pieces featuring music of Africa, Cuba, the Middle East and Brazil. Open to the public.
Evaluation	25%

April 1, 2022 Creative Video Submissions Due (late submissions will not be graded)

University Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

Students are responsible for making up any missed classes or assignments as soon as possible. In order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing more than 30% of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation in the form of a completed and appropriately signed Student Medical Certificate (SMC) indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities, or the equivalent documentation for non-medical or compassionate grounds.

Students seeking academic consideration **must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC**, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence. Documentation, if required, shall be submitted to the Office of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC210).

Note that the new Self-Reporting Absence Portal may not be used for requesting academic relief for work worth more than 30%, or for Final Exams scheduled during the official examination period. Students are directed to read the full Senate policy on accommodation for medical illness at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf

A pdf copy of a Senate approved Student Medical Certificate (SMC) may be downloaded here: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

In cases where students miss work that is worth 30% or less of the total course grade due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if an online absence report is submitted using the new Self-Reporting Absence Portal, or if documentation is voluntarily submitted to the Associate Dean's office and the Associate Dean deems that accommodation is warranted, then the missed assignment(s) or quiz(zes) may be discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course. If documentation is not submitted voluntarily then the missed assignment(s) or quiz(zes) will receive a grade of zero.

Statement on Health and Wellness

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western at the following website https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

vii) Students may be excused to observe a religious holy day of their faith without penalty provided they notify the instructor in advance. Students are responsible for material covered in their absence and each student shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up missed work.

viii) If you require academic accommodations because of a disability, please let the instructor know during the first week of classes, and, if you have not done so already, register as soon as possible with Accessible Education (formerly known as Services for Students with Disabilities). You can learn more about the Student Success Centre's services for accessible education at <http://success.uwo.ca/academics/sas/index.html>

Scholastic Offences

Plagiarism: Complete assignments independently. Submission of work with which you have received help from someone else (other than the course instructor or TA) is an example of plagiarism. Plagiarism is 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, at the following website:

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

