

Music 205: Music Cultures of the World

Class meetings: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:40–4:10, Campus Hall, Room 104

Instructor: Prof. David Schulenberg (email: dschulen@wagner.edu)

Office hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 1–2:30; Campus Hall, Rm. 110

This course provides an introduction to the study of music from a global perspective. Beginning with the questions of what music is, what purposes it serves, and who listens to and performs it, and how, we consider selected musical traditions from around the world. We consider both elite or “art” music as well as various types of popular or vernacular music.

This course has no prerequisites, and it requires no previous instruction or experience in music, music theory, or music notation. You will not be required or expected to read music, sing, or play an instrument. The course is open to all non-music majors and to those considering any of the music majors or minor, for whom it is an elective course.

Course objectives. At the completion of this course, you should be able to:

- recognize aurally a broad range of types of music from around the world
- understand fundamental principles and components of that music
- appreciate the place of that music within its historical and cultural context
- write and speak about that music using appropriate terminology.

The course promotes acquisition of these skills within the College’s general education program:

- understanding of the arts (A)
- creativity (C)
- international perspectives (I)
- intercultural understanding (U).

Work for the course includes reading, listening, two short “reaction” papers, one longer paper, two exams, class participation (including aural presentations) based on weekly informal writing, and a final examination. All students will also be expected to attend at least two off-campus performances of music from at least two distinct world cultures; both selections must be from outside “western” classical and commercial pop traditions (including Broadway).

Listening to assigned recordings is the most important work. Listening assignments are through audio tracks on CDs (compact disks) supplied with the textbook. Additional listening and video assignments from online sources may also be given. Please plan to devote several hours each week to careful listening (and viewing) to assigned tracks. All other assignments are based in part on these listening assignments.

The longer paper is a *performance report*: a combined research paper and performance review in which you report on one of the performances that you have attended. The choice of event is up to you. The performance report gives you a chance to express your reaction to the music and the performance. It also reflects your own research into the history and background of the music in question. You will receive additional information about each assignment in class.

Over the course of the semester, each class member will participate in at least several *student presentation*. More information on this will be given in class. It is possible that the final exam will take the form of an aural report based on your final paper.

Readings are from the following textbook:

Terry E. Miller and Andrew Shahriari, *World Music: A Global Journey*, concise 2d edition

Please be sure to buy or obtain access to the correct version (*concise*) and the correct edition (*second*)! You can get it [direct from the publisher \(click on this link\)](#). Use the same link to access the book's companion website, including supplementary videos and study aids.

Email and internet. Please do not submit work as email attachments unless I specifically ask you to do so. Also, please do not send me email messages asking questions about matters discussed in class or in handouts and assignment sheets. Instead, please write down questions and ask them in class, or schedule a meeting with me to do so privately (you may use email to set up a meeting!). Although you may use music downloads and online websites for certain purposes of the course, successful completion of some assignments will require you to obtain information that is available only from printed books and articles, CD recordings, and other hard-copy sources. Websites are not acceptable sources for papers except as noted below.

Grades and attendance. The final grade will be based on the three papers (10%, 10%, and 15%, respectively), two exams (15% each), aural presentations and class participation (20%), and final examination (15%). Attendance is mandatory, and grades will be reduced for unexcused absences. *Anyone arriving to class late or leaving early will be marked absent. You will also be marked absent if you use a cellphone or text messaging in class, or if you leave the room more than once during a class period without a medical excuse.*

Only documents from medical or other appropriate professionals will be accepted as excuses for lateness or absence. Make-up exams will not be given; students excused from tests will instead be assigned additional written work.

Music reference books. The Horrmann Library possesses reference works on music that will provide assistance with unfamiliar terms and names. The most important for us is *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, 2d edn., edited by Stanley Sadie, 29 vols. (London: Macmillan, 2001). This is the standard English-language music encyclopedia. It includes book-length articles about major world music traditions (typically under country or city names), as well as equally informative entries for musical instruments and notable individual musicians. An updated electronic version, *Grove Music Online*, is available through the "Databases" menu on the home page of the [Horrmann Library website](#). Click on "Databases A-Z," then on "Oxford Music Online" (or go there directly by [clicking here](#)).

Once you're in *Oxford Music Online*, enter your search terms in the search window to get a list of possible database entries. If none of the search results seems to be what you're looking for, try clicking on "biographical article" in the left frame for biographies of musicians (note: you may

need to enter the full name of certain people, such as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart). If all you need is a short dictionary-style entry identifying a person or defining a musical term or title, try clicking in the box near the top of the screen to limit your search to the *Oxford Dictionary of Music* or the *Oxford Companion to Music*.

Wikipedia and most other online sources may be helpful for getting started on a research assignment, but in general they are *not* acceptable as references in a paper or presentation. Exceptions include *Oxford Music Online* and scholarly publications accessed through [JStor](#) and other databases available through the Horrmann Library website. You may use commercial and personal websites for information about recent works and composers if no other sources are available. **You must cite your sources for both facts and opinions that are not your own, whether you give these in the form of direct quotations, paraphrases, or summaries.** Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism and will result in a failing grade for the assignment and possibly for the course.

The course calendar below lists assignments and topics. Please listen to each listed work and do the reading *before* coming to the class for which they are assigned. The numbers in parentheses are chapter numbers in the textbook for the reading assignments. Most listening assignments are described within the reading and will involve audio tracks on CDs (or downloads) purchased with the textbook.

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| 1 | Aug. 26 | introduction to the course; chapter 1: what is music? |
| 2 | Aug. 28 | chaps. 2–3: fundamentals of ethnomusicology |
| | [Sept. 2 | no class: Labor Day holiday] |
| 3 | Sept. 4 | chap. 4: Oceania |
| 4 | Sept. 9 | |
| 5 | Sept. 11 | chap. 5: south Asia |
| 6 | Sept. 16 | |
| 7 | Sept. 18 | chap. 6: southeast Asia |
| 8 | Sept. 23 | FIRST REACTION PAPER DUE |
| 9 | Sept. 25 | chap. 7: east Asia |
| 10 | Sept. 30 | |
| 11 | Oct. 2 | TEST 1 |
| 12 | Oct. 7 | chap. 8: Islamic and Jewish traditions |
| 13 | Oct. 9 | |
| | [Oct. 14 | no class: fall break] |
| 14 | Oct. 16 | chap. 9: European traditions |

- 15 Oct. 21
16 Oct. 23 chap. 10: sub-Saharan Africa
- 17 Oct. 28
18 Oct. 30 TEST 2
- 19 Nov. 4 chap. 11: the Caribbean
20 Nov. 6
- 21 Nov. 11 SECOND REACTION PAPER DUE
22 Nov. 13 chap. 12: South America
- 23 Nov. 18
24 Nov. 20 chap. 13: North America
- 25 Nov. 25
[Nov. 27 no class: Thanksgiving vacation]
- 26 Dec. 2 FINAL PAPER DUE
Dec. 3 possible optional or make-up day
- Dec. 11 FINAL EXAM