

Spring 2021

Dr. Cathy Ragland

Email: catherine.ragland@unt.edu

Class time: Thur. 2-3:50

Office hours: Tues 2-3pm (when there is not class meeting on this day) or by appointment

MUET 5210/6010 –Ethnomusicology, Public Work, and Activism

Drawing on history, theory and practice in applied anthropology, folklore, heritage studies, and performance studies, this course examines the work of ethnomusicologists as producers, researchers, consulting scholars, educators, cultural policy makers, community advocates, sustainable music collaborators, and activists. We will have a few guest speakers from within and outside of the academy who will discuss the work of ethnomusicologists and folklorists and will share their experiences working in projects that have impacted the lives of community musicians and audiences in many ways.

Books:

I am not requiring that you purchase any books for this class, however, I will be selecting readings from several books and journals from Ethnomusicology, Folklore, Sound Studies, and Performance Theory. We will be examining websites and other materials online related to a variety of public and private arts organizations, foundations and projects.

I have placed in Canvas a pdf file of the book *Oxford Handbook of Applied Ethnomusicology*, edited by Svanibor Pettan and Jeff Todd Titon. Below are additional books from which we will be reading (in addition to other articles from journals and book chapters):

- Baron, Robert and Nicholas Spitzer. *Public Folklore*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi (2007)
- Mackinlay, Elizabeth, Svanibor Pettan, Klisala Harrison, eds. *Applied Ethnomusicology: Historical and Contemporary Approaches*. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing (2010)
- Shippers, Huib and Catherine Grant, eds. *Sustainable Futures for Music Cultures: An Ecological Perspective*. New York: Oxford University Press (2016)
- Pettan, Svanibor and Jeff Todd Titon, eds. *De-Colonization, Heritage, & Advocacy, An Oxford Handbook of Applied Ethnomusicology, Vol. 2*. New York: Oxford University Press (2019)
- Cooley, Timothy, ed. *Cultural Sustainabilities*. Urbana/Chicago: University of Illinois Press (2019)

Evaluation: The final course grade will be based on a total number of 200 possible points, distributed as follows:

- Weekly (mostly) reading/written assignments (some may be as part of a group) = 7 x 10pts ea. = 70 pts
- Texas Folklife Spring Collaborative Music Survey Project Deliverables=60pts
- Survey Project reflection essay=10pts
- Applied/public/engaged ethnomusicology = case study analysis+presentation=20pts
- Final community project grant assignment (completed as part of a group of two or three students) + grant review panel participation (20pts for each part of this assignment)=40pts ***Final community project grant is due by 11:59 pm Friday, April 23 in preparation for grant review panels on Tuesday April 27 & Thursday, April 29.***

Total points earned: 200

Readings/Writing Assignments: You will be asked to write short essays, submit discussion posts, or participate in other activities related to the weekly reading assignments. Unless otherwise instructed, you'll be asked to 1) briefly summarize the core argument and main themes of the assigned readings; 2) relate the topic to previous readings and topics, and to your research, as relevant; 3) Conclude with 1-2 generative questions for discussion in class (and more, if you'd like). In discussion posts, your writing need not be overly formal, but it should be clear and polished.

Texas Folklife Spring 2021 UNT-UT Austin Collaborative Music Survey Project:

This will be an ongoing project which will allow you real world experience in conducting research, interviewing, collecting photographs, videos, and other ephemera, writing fieldnotes and editing them into final entries of 600-900 words to be added to a digital cultural map of Texas musicians, cultural arts/presenting organizations, and grassroots community culture brokers/presenters/advocates for traditional and vernacular music in Texas. You will have guidance from myself, Charlie Lockwood (Texas Folklife Director), and one of his assistants for each of the three regions we have been assigned to research:

1. Rio Grande Valley near cities of Laredo / Del Rio
2. Texas Plains Trail (Panhandle)
3. Texas Mountain Trail Region (Especially El Paso and surrounding)

We will discuss your progress in class meetings and as part of your regional teams. In addition to your final portfolio of materials for Texas Folklife, you will submit a 2-3 page reflection essay of the project, your experience, and what you envision uses and contribution to cultural sustainability, artist development and support, and

activist/advocacy ethnomusicology. More details will be given by Charlie Lockwood in his meeting with us (and Dr. Seeman's class) on Thursday, Feb 4.

Attendance and Participation: This is **crucial** to the success of this class. First and foremost, attendance is **mandatory**, more than two absences could cause the downgrade of a full letter grade or more depending on absences. Always let me know if you cannot attend Zoom class for any reason or if there is an emergency, let me know as soon as possible. We will be a fairly small group so it is imperative that everyone attend and participate fully in all discussions and activities. My hope is that the material and assignments will inspire lively and stimulating discussions essential to learning about researching and writing about music. In-class participation and preparedness will be expected in every class and expressed through in-class discussions, regular attendance, activities and timely delivery of assignments. These things will be considered in grading the above assignments. ***While I have not listed this in this above evaluation criteria, however, I will consider the lack of attendance and/or participation in the final grading process.***

COVID-19 impact on attendance

While attendance is expected as outlined above, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to a related issue regarding COVID-19. It is important that you communicate with me prior to being absent as to what may be preventing you from coming to class so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class.

If you are experiencing cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, or any of the other possible symptoms of COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html> (Links to an external site.)) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

Course Topics (subject to change)

Part 1: History/Foundations from Anthropology, Folklore

Week One / Jan 14: Introduction to course; objectives and goals.

Week Two / Jan 21: What's in a Name? Ethnomusicology history+practice/Intro to applied/public ethnomusicology

Week Three / Jan 28: Public Folklore History, Pioneers and Foundational impacts

Week Four / Feb 4: Texas Folklife Spring 2021 UNT-UT Austin Collaborative Music Survey Project- meet with Charlie Lockwood, TF Director and Zoom with UT-Austin class.

Part 2: Advocacy and the Ethnomusicologist

Week Five / Feb 11: Epistemologies of Applied Ethnomusicology, Collaborative Work

Week Six / Feb 18: Developing Initiatives and Public Partnerships

Week Seven / Feb 25: TBA

Week Eight / March 4: “Activist Ethnomusicology and Marginalized Music of South Asia”

Guest Speaker: Zoe Sherinian, Associate Professor, Ethnomusicology, University of Oklahoma

Part 3: De-colonizing the field through Public Work and Sustainable Practice

Nine / March 11: Decolonization and Ethnomusicology

Week Ten / March 18: Cultural/Musical Sustainable Practices. Guest speaker: Cecelia Ottenweller, independent folklorist

Week Eleven / March 25: Responding to Anthropogenic Change and Musical Communities

Week Twelve March 30 & Apr 1: Critical Case studies in Ethnomusicology and Folklore pt 1

Week Thirteen Apr 6 & Apr 8: Critical Case studies in Ethnomusicology and Folklore pt 2

End of Semester Deliverables/Grant Panel

Week Fourteen / Apr 15: No Class – Work on Texas Folklife Project Deliverables (Due by April 22) and Final community project grant assignment (due by 11:59pm Friday, April 23 – so reviewers can read before panel).

Week Fifteen Apr 21 & Apr 22: Grants and Texas Folklife Project discussion/reflection

Week Sixteen Apr 27 & Apr 29: Grant Review Panel – Final Grant proposal due

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY POLICY INFORMATION (Links)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

See: [Academic Integrity \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

LINK: https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003.AcadIntegrity.Final_.pdf (Links to an external site.)

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

See: [Student Code of Conduct \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Link: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct> (Links to an external site.)

ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at my.unt.edu (Links to an external site.). All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect.

See: [Eagle Connect \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

LINK: eagleconnect.unt.edu/ (Links to an external site.)

ODA STATEMENT

See: [ODA \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

LINK: disability.unt.edu (Links to an external site.). (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

UNT Policy Statement on Diversity

UNT values diversity and individuality as part of advancing ideals of human worth, dignity and academic excellence.

See: [Diversity Statement \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Link: https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/04.018_PolicyStateOnDiversity.pub8_.18.pdf (Links to an external site.)

2020-2021 Semester Academic Schedule (with Add/Drop Dates)

See: [Spring, 2021 Registration Guide \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-registration-guide> (Links to an external site.)

Academic Calendar at a Glance, 2020-2021

See: [Academic Calendar \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Link: <https://www.unt.edu/catalogs/2020-21/calendar> (Links to an external site.)

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress

Graduates

See: [Financial Aid \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap> (Links to an external site.)

RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS

See: [FERPA \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Link: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/> (Links to an external site.)

COUNSELING AND TESTING

UNT's Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor whose position includes 16 hours per week of dedicated service to students in the College of Music and the College of Visual Arts and Design. Please visit the Center's website for further information:

See: [Counseling and Testing \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Link: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services> (Links to an external site.).

For more information on mental health issues, please visit:

See: [Mental Health Issues \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Link: <https://speakout.unt.edu> (Links to an external site.).

The counselor for music students is:

Myriam Reynolds

Chestnut Hall, Suite 311

(940) 565-2741

Myriam.reynolds@unt.edu

ADD/DROP POLICY

See: [Add Drop \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-registration-guide> (Links to an external site.)

STUDENT RESOURCES

The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to:

See: [Student Resources \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Link: https://www.unt.edu/sites/default/files/resource_sheet.pdf