

MUET 3080 - Course Syllabus

Fall 2023

Professor: Dr. Cathy Ragland

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Office Hours, Tuesdays 2-3pm in rm# 318 (College of Music bldg.) & Wednesdays 10-11am via Zoom: <https://unt.zoom.us/j/86324349923> or by appointment.

Class times: TR 11am-12:20pm in room# 322 (College of Music bldg.)

TOPIC: Mexican Musical Life Across Borders

This class explores the history and evolution of regional Mexican, Border and Mexican American/Chicanx music in relation to Mexico's post-Revolutionary nationalist agenda, rural to urban migration, modernization, border crossings, and the transnational (and now translocal) connections and life experiences that inform the music and support a dynamic cross-border music industry. We will study music traditions that cross-regional and historically indigenous boundaries within Mexico and across the border into what folklorist and Chicano scholar Américo Paredes has described as "Mexico de afuera" (the Mexico outside), a place where new concerns, new lives, and hybrid musics have emerged from what is considered traditional and familiar as well as that which is new and modern.

One of the important challenges in this study will be to unpack the notion of "Mexicanidad" on both sides of the border and the crucial role music plays in the history, expression, and transnational understanding of this concept. Likewise, we will examine the border as both fluid and contradictory, which has historically fostered expressions of music and performance by individuals in Texas, Mexico, the American Southwest and communities across the U.S. This network of sound, bodies, and politics is shaped by combined local, regional, and national allegiances amid challenging pressures of globalization and neoliberalism.

Class Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- identify and describe several forms of Mexican, Border and Mexican American traditional and popular music/dance styles
- understand the historical background and politics of Mexican nationalism and nation-building since the Mexican Revolution and the role of music in this process
- think critically about the connections between music, national identity, migration/immigration and transnational communities, political mobilization
- evaluate the importance of music to historical and modern social movements

Books:

You are not required to purchase books for this class. I will post readings on Canvas from the following books along with other selected book chapters and articles:

Madrid, Alejandro L. (2013). *Music in Mexico: Experiencing Music, Expressing Culture* (Global Music SeriesLinks to an external site.). New York: Oxford University Press.

Bauer, Erin. (2023) *Flaco's Legacy, The Globalization of Conjunto*. Champaign: University of Illinois Press.

Nájera-Ramírez, Olga Norma E. Cantú, and Brenda M. Romero, eds. (2009). *Dancing Across Borders: Danzas y Bailes Mexicanas*. Champaign: University of Illinois Press.

Pedely, Mark. (2004) *Musical Ritual in Mexico City*. Austin: University of Texas Press.

Ragland, Cathy. (2009) *Música Norteña: Mexican Migrants Creating a Nation between Nations*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Ramos-Kittrell, Jesús A ed. (2019). *Decentering the Nation: Music, Mexicanidad, and Globalization*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

Sturman, Janet L. (2016). *The Course of Mexican Music*. New York: Routledge.

Course Requirements & Activities:

Weekly readings, discussions, assignments, exams

1. This course requires active participation from all students class discussions, activities, and assignments. Attendance and participation are crucial to the success of this class.
2. Students must complete all required readings for each class meeting and participate fully in class discussions and activities.
3. Each week, you will be given questions on readings, videos, or a topic to complete and have available for class discussions. I will ask you to upload some of these via Canvas as an assignment and, in other cases, I will ask you to comment via discussion posts or bring your notes to class. In some cases, there will be group assignments.

*All students in the class should actively engage in the weekly discussions and have prepared questions, comments, and ideas to share, submit all assignments and exams by the due dates. The primary purpose for these assignments and activities is not only to be familiar with the readings, but to learn to read them critically, understanding and evaluating the author's argument, and in facilitating lively, intellectual discussions and learning opportunities.

Important Notes:

*Please let me know as soon as you do if you are unable to attend class for any reason. If you have more than three unexcused absences, you will not get full credit for Attendance/Participation.

*Students can expect timely return of student work, particularly quizzes or final papers/projects

*Music students should not schedule their end-of-semester jury against a regularly scheduled academic class.

Unit Quizzes (Canvas)

You will be given three (3) quizzes via Canvas covering listening examples, identification of key terms, ideas, important people, instruments, and you will be asked to make informed comments on topics from class discussions involving social, cultural and/or political issues. Questions on the quiz will be a combination of matching multiple choice, short answer and a few short essay

questions. Quizzes will open in Canvas at 11am on the last Thursday of each Unit and will close by end of day the following Monday (see Course Schedule below). On this final Thursday, there will be a short review and a study guide will be available as well. You'll have 1hr 15 minutes to complete the quiz.

Final Assignments for this course:

Final Article Essay-Response paper (**Due in Canvas by end of day Friday, Dec 8**) The final Unit 4 will be will have fewer weeks than the others. In lieu of an exam, I will ask you to submit an essay-response paper based on an article/book chapter we have not read, but relates to this unit's topic or you can choose an article/chapter we have not read on a topic we covered in previous Units. If there is a topic/genre(?) that we did not cover in this class, but you think we should have and you want to propose an article/chapter to write about, I am happy to consider this as well. Let's talk! More detail on how to do this paper in Canvas. **Approx. 6-7 pages, double-spaced. Please get my approval of the article/chapter you will write about no later than Thursday, November 16. Presentations on your article to the class will be in the form of a Roundtable presentation/discussion with other students on November 28, 30, and (possibly) Dec 5. You will also attend all topic presentations given by graduate students on the final two days of class: Dec 5 and 7. You will fill out an evaluation form for each presentation.**

Regarding written essays and assignments

All submissions should use collegiate-level vocabulary, employ a scholarly literary style, and should not include language or style of a colloquial nature (i.e., no incomplete or run-on sentences, misspellings, slang, etc.). All quotations, references, examples, illustrations, tables, etc. must be properly and consistently formatted.

Students will be graded on English language usage, originality of ideas, organization, neatness, rigor of thought, and the extent to which reference is made to concepts discussed in class. This applies to both oral and written presentations. Remember that in general, we write more formally than we speak. Additionally, graduates will take the lead on occasional group assignments and work with undergraduate students in leading a discussions on assigned readings or as part of a group project.

Evaluation

All students will be required to attend to keep up with the required reading and listening, to participate in discussions, to submit exams on the assigned date/time, and to complete and submit weekly assignments. Grades for undergraduates and graduates are based on the following:

Attendance/Participation in class discussions & activities	20%
Assignments and discussion postings (individual and group)	20%
3 Unit quizzes 10% each (30% total)	30%
Final Article response paper and your evaluations of graduate student final presentations	30%

Course Schedule

Subject to change, if needed. All readings and listening examples available in Canvas.

I. Indigenous Music and Dance; Colonial Legacies; Regional Sones across Borders

Week One / Aug 22&24: Introduction to course; Indigenous Music and Dance, Past and Present.

Week Two / Aug 29 & 31: Religious and Regional Folk Music (Sones de Mexico)

Week Three / Sept 5 & 7: Regional Sones (cont.) and Mariachi across Borders (assignment #2 due)

Week Four / Sept 12 & 14 (review): Son Jarocho/Son Huasteco across Borders

Unit Quiz #1 (open on Canvas 11am Thursday, Sept 14 and closed by end of day Monday, Sept 18)

II. Mexican Revolution, the Porfiriato and the Role of Music in Creating a Modern Mexican Nation (1910s -1940s)

Week Five / Sept 19&21: Revolutionary/Post-Revolutionary Corridos and their Legacies

Week Six / Sept 26&28: Music and the Making of an Engendered Modern Nation(alism): Modern Mariachi/Ranchera and Importance of Radio and Cinema

Week Seven / Oct 3&5: Music and the Making of a Modern Nation (pt 2): Bolero, Danzón, Trios Románticos, etc.

Week Eight / Oct 10&12 Indigenismo, Modernism and the Mexican Avant Garde

Unit Quiz #2 opens in Canvas by 11am Thursday, Oct 12 and will close by end of day Monday, Oct 16)

III. Border Music and Border Scholarship; Tejano Music; Chicano Movement and the New Chicanismo

Week Nine / Oct 17&19: The “Aural Border”: Border Corridos and Music of the Mexican Migrant Experience (Música Norteña)

Week Ten / Oct 24&26: The Sound of Two Cities: LA and Monterrey, MX: Transnational Mexicanidad, Transnational Sounds: Banda, Sierreño, Cumbia Norteña, etc. (

Week Eleven / Oct 31&Nov 2: The Sound of South Texas: Texas Mexican/Tejano Music, Regional Identity, and Film: Songs of the Homeland

Week Twelve / Nov 7&9: Music, Performance and the Chicano Movement; New (and more inclusive!) Chicanismo: Education, Community “Artivism,” and Cultural Citizenship

Unit Exam #3 (open on Canvas by 11am Thursday, Nov 9 and closed by end of day Monday, Nov 13)

IV. Performing Gender, Identity and Place: New Perspectives on Performing Mexicanidad

Week Thirteen / Nov 14&17: Astrid Hadad’s “Heavy Nopal”; Remembering Selena, Remembering Latinidad; Vaquero World: Queer Mexicanidad, Trans Performance and Undoing of the Nation; Discussion.

Thanksgiving Week Break - Nov 20-24 (NO CLASSES!)

Week Fourteen / Nov 28&30: Undergraduate Roundtable Discussions based on chosen articles read and critiqued in final assignment.

Week Fifteen / Dec 5&7: Undergraduate Roundtable Discussions (cont. if needed) +

Graduate final paper presentations

Presentation of final projects by graduate students. Undergraduate students will complete a questionnaire for each graduate presentation.

Final essay-response assignment due in Canvas by end of day, Friday, Dec 8.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam [or specify alternative sanction, such as course failure]. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students (Office of Academic Integrity), who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

See: Academic Integrity

LINK: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>Links to an external site.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Student Code of Conduct 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. 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

LINK: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

ODA STATEMENT

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with

disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter. You can now request your Letters of Accommodation ONLINE and ODA will mail your Letters of Accommodation to your instructors. You may wish to begin a private discussion with your professors regarding your specific needs in a course. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester. For additional information see the Office of Disability Access.

See: ODA LINK: disability.unt.edu (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

DIVERSITY AND BELONGING

UNT values diversity and individuality as part of advancing ideals of human worth, dignity and academic excellence. Diverse viewpoints enrich open discussion, foster the examination of values and exposure of biases, help educate people in rational conflict resolution and responsive leadership, and prepare us for the complexities of a pluralistic society. As such, UNT is committed to maintaining an open, welcoming atmosphere that attracts qualified students, staff, and faculty from all groups to support their success. UNT does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status in its application and admission process, educational programs and activities, employment policies and use of university facilities.

See: Diversity and Inclusion

Link: <https://idea.unt.edu/diversity-inclusion>Links to an external site.

Health and Safety Information

Students can access information about health and safety at: <https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness>Links to an external site.

Registration Information for Students See: Registration Information Link:

<https://registrar.unt.edu/students>Links to an external site.

Academic Calendar, Fall 2023 See: Fall 2023 Academic Calendar Link:

<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-registration-guide>

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress:

Undergraduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total hours registered. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

Students holding music scholarships must maintain a minimum 2.5 overall cumulative GPA and 3.0 cumulative GPA in music courses.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended that you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to

discuss dropping a course before doing so. See: Financial Aid LINK:
<http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

Graduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Music scholarships require a 3.5 cumulative GPA. Students cannot exceed maximum timeframes established based on the published length of the graduate program. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended you schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college, an advisor in UNT-International or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course.

See: Financial Aid

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university's policy in accordance with those mandates.

See: FERPA

Link: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

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

Link: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>

For more information on mental health issues, please visit: Mental Health Issues Link:
<https://speakout.unt.edu>.

The counselor for music students is:
Myriam Reynolds

Chestnut Hall, Suite 311
(940) 565-2741 Myriam.reynolds@unt.edu

ADD/DROP POLICY

Please be reminded that dropping classes or failing to complete and pass registered hours may make you ineligible for financial aid. In addition, if you drop below half-time enrollment you may be required to begin paying back your student loans. See Academic Calendar (listed above) for additional add/drop Information.

Drop Information: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-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 Link: <https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>

(Note: A printer-friendly PDF version is available by clicking the green button on the home page)

CARE TEAM

The Care Team is a collaborative interdisciplinary committee of university officials that meets regularly to provide a response to student, staff, and faculty whose behavior could be harmful to themselves or others. See: Care Team Link: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>