

MUET 3030 - Music Cultures of the World

MUET 3030.400

Online/Asynchronous

Professor

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Pronouns: she/her/hers

Office Hours: **Mon/Fri 10-11am** by appointment only; Office works will be taken online, via Zoom. Please confirm interest in advance by email to receive the Zoom link.

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Teaching Assistants

Name: Antara Bhattacharya

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Office Hours: **Mon/Fri 11:30am-12:30pm** by appointment only; Office works will be taken online, via Zoom. Please confirm interest in advance by email to receive the Zoom link.

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Name: Shagun Bali

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Office Hours: **Thu/Fri 1:30-2:30pm** by appointment only; Office works will be taken online, via Zoom. Please confirm interest in advance by email to receive the Zoom link.

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Communication

If you have a private question, please contact your TA or me via email, and we will respond within 24 hours on weekdays and around 48 hours on weekends. This is our preferred method of contact.

Find Your TA: Each student has been assigned to a TA Cohort for assignment, grading and overall support. On Canvas, go to **People - TA Cohorts** to find your assigned TA. Your TA will be your primary contact for assignment, grading and general questions/assistance throughout the semester.

Welcome to UNT!

As members of the UNT community, we have all made a commitment to be part of an institution that respects and values the identities of the students and employees with whom we

interact. UNT does not tolerate identity-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. UNT's full Non-Discrimination Policy can be found in the UNT Policies section of the syllabus.

Course Description

This course will introduce you to several musical genres outside the Western art music tradition and within cultural, social and/or political contexts. You will acquire basic knowledge about specific music traditions and will learn to read and write critically about music as an aspect of culture and society. The study of music from a cultural perspective illustrates the important role of music as a means of expression grounded in religious, political, social, and cultural identity. The course will cover a wide range of music traditions from various parts of the world including Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

The course is designed so that students can be successful without a background in Music History and Theory or in Ethnomusicology. Musical performance background (reading music notation) is also not a prerequisite. The main requirement is a willingness to listen carefully and to articulate what is heard and learned.

Course Structure

This course takes place asynchronously and 100% online. There are 15 weeks of content that you will move through. Each module contains three to six weeks of content and assignments. I will open a new module one week before the previous unit's quiz, so you can move ahead if you complete the quiz early.

Course Prerequisites or Other Restrictions

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will have learned that:

1. The study of the world's diverse music cultures significantly enhances critical thinking skills by encouraging students to analyze music within its social and cultural contexts. The interdisciplinary approach practiced by Ethnomusicologists and at the core of our approach to the study of the world's traditions in this course promotes active listening, research, and the development of diverse perspectives, all of which are essential components of critical thinking **(Core LO: Critical Thinking)**
2. The study of world music cultures is intricately linked to the development of communication skills, particularly in the realm of intercultural understanding and expression. Students will have learned to understand and appreciate cultural differences which enhances cross-cultural knowledge and communication. Writing and speaking about the music and world cultures explored in this class encourages deep understanding of how music functions as a means of

communication, identity, and social interaction.

(Core LO: Communication)

3. By exploring the role of music in diverse cross-cultural communities and groups, students will have learned social responsibility by acknowledging and assuming diverse cultural/intercultural perspectives; exploring aspects of civic responsibility; and reflecting personally on their ability to understand, recognize, and even challenge notions of cultural bias.

(Core LO: Social Responsibility)

4. By exposing students to various cultures and traditions, promoting open-mindedness, and respect for diversity will have fostered a sense of global citizenship and empathy. Students will have developed the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making. **(Core LO: Personal Responsibility)**

Materials

Jeff Todd Titon, Ed. *Worlds of Music: An Introduction to the Music of the World's Peoples*, 5th or 6th edition (Cengage Learning). We will only be reading parts of the following chapters: 1, 3, 6, 7. The readings from this textbook will be available in the Canvas online course, and the book is also on course reserves if you wish to access it. Additional readings and powerpoints will also be located in the in the Canvas modules. Be sure to read all information on weekly readings and assignments the modules.

You can access all the recordings from the 5th edition of the Titon textbook available on the UNT Library digital reserves. Each student will receive their own access to the digital reserves which will be emailed to them from the UNT Libraries reserves. You'll need to sign in with your EUID and Password. Search by the recording title and/or artist name.

Information Literacy

A portion of the assignments in this course (including reading assignments) are intended to have students engage with and access UNT Library resources. Such resources may include, but are not limited to, primary source databases, UNT special collections, and ebooks, with the goal of learning how to independently seek out, assess, and interpret primary and secondary source material available in the UNT Library databases.

Statement on the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Artificial intelligence can be a valuable learning support tool, and students are encouraged to use AI responsibly when it helps them study, understand course material, or develop their own learning strategies. Appropriate uses may include creating study flashcards, summarizing course materials to support comprehension, brainstorming or organizing initial ideas, translating material for comprehension, or receiving explanations of concepts.

However, AI-generated coursework is prohibited in this course. Generative **AI tools may not be used to write, rewrite, substantially edit, or produce answers, discussion posts, essays,**

research papers, analyses, reflections, or other content submitted for credit. AI should support your learning; it should not substitute for your own thinking, analysis, or writing.

One of the central goals of this course is to develop critical thinking and the ability to formulate, communicate, and support your own ideas. Your submitted work does not need to sound perfectly polished or professionally written. You are undergraduate students developing these skills, and we value your own voice, reasoning, and intellectual development at whatever stage those skills may be. Clear and thoughtful engagement with the material matters more than artificially polished prose.

Using generative AI to produce coursework that is submitted as your own may constitute an academic integrity violation and will be taken seriously in accordance with UNT policies and procedures.

AI Use Disclosure

Whenever you use an AI tool at any stage of your work, including permitted learning-support activities, include a brief AI Use Disclosure at the end of your submission. This disclosure does not count against you when the AI use is consistent with course policy; its purpose is transparency.

You may use the following format:

AI Use Disclosure: I used [tool] to [briefly describe how you used it]. The ideas, analysis, and submitted writing are my own.

Example:

AI Use Disclosure: I used ChatGPT to create study questions from my notes and to brainstorm possible ways of organizing my initial ideas. The ideas, analysis, and submitted writing are my own.

If you did not use AI at any stage of the assignment, no disclosure is necessary.

If you are unsure whether a particular use of AI is appropriate, ask your TA or me before using it. When in doubt, ask first.

Course Technology & Skills

Minimum Technology Requirements:

- Computer
- Reliable internet access
- Microsoft Office Suite
- Canvas Technical Requirements (<https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements>)

Computer Skills & Digital Literacy

- Using Canvas
- Using email with attachments
- Downloading PDFs
- Interacting with online music platforms (e.g. Youtube)
- Accessing UNT Library Databases

Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UNT Help Desk: UNT Student Help Desk site (<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu; Phone: 940-565-2324

Availability by phone:

- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130, Walk-In, 8am-9pm

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328) (<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328>)

Rules of Engagement

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors. Here are some general guidelines:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated.
- Treat your instructors and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.

- Speak from personal experiences. Use “I” statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individual’s experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Avoid using all caps while communicating digitally. This may be interpreted as “YELLING!”.
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts as tone can be difficult to interpret digitally.
- Avoid using “text-talk” unless explicitly permitted by your instructor. Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.

See these [Engagement Guidelines](https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) (https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) for more information.

** You can find all assignment guidelines and details on Canvas. **If there is ever a discrepancy between this follow the table outlined in Canvas!***

Course Requirements - Total Points earned for course = 1000

*Note: All Assignments and discussion postings are due by the end of day (11:59pm) unless otherwise indicated in Canvas

Weekly Assignments, Discussion Posts, and Special Assessments

- Audio or Video Personal Introduction Discussion Assignment (first week of classes) - 20 points (2% of grade)
- Discussion Posts - 14 x 10pts=140pts
- Weekly Assessment Essays - 14 x 10pts=140pts (280 pts total - 28% of grade)

Quizzes (300pts total - 30% of grade)

- Unit 1 Quiz (100 pts)
- Unit 2 Quiz (100 pts)
- Unit 3 Quiz (100 pts)

*Special Assignment #1: Afropop Worldwide Team Project (200 points total - 20% of grade)

- Proposal (50 pts) - Short paragraph - **Due by Sunday, October 25**
- Collaboration, Quality of research/work, Presentation (150 pts) - **Due by Sunday, November 1**

For this assignment you will work in teams of three. Go to the Afropop Worldwide Website:

<https://afropop.org/audio-programs>. **Guidelines for this assignment can be found in Canvas, Unit 2 (Part 1: Week 10/ Part 2: Week 11).**

***Special Assignment #2: Final paper/project** (200 points total - 20% of grade). **Guidelines for this assignment can be found in Canvas, Week 16.**

- Proposal & Draft (75 points or 37,5% of total) - **Due Friday, November 13**
- Final paper (125 points or 62,5% of total) - **Due by Sunday, December 6**

Weekly Assignment Essays and Special Assignments are subject to the late-work policy described under Course Policies. They close after the 24-hour grace period and ordinarily cannot be submitted thereafter.

Grade Evaluation

The course will be graded on a cumulative 1000-point scale. To pass the course, students must maintain a passing grade of 600 (D) or higher.

A: 90-100% (Outstanding, excellent work. The student performs well above the minimum criteria.)
B: 80-89% (Good, impressive work. The student performs above the minimum criteria.)
C: 70-79% (Solid, college-level work. The student meets the criteria of the assignment.)
D: 60 to 69 (Below average work. The student barely meets minimum criteria.)
F: 59 and below (Sub-par work. The student fails to complete the assignment.)

Course Policies

Assignment Policy

Students can find all assignment details, submission guidelines, and due dates in Canvas modules and the syllabus. All assignments have a 24-hour grace period to account for unforeseen personal or technical difficulties. This means that students may submit work up to 24 hours after the stated due date without penalty.

Late-submission policies after the 24-hour grace period vary by assignment type. Discussion Posts may be submitted after the grace period with a penalty of 2 points per day, when late submissions are permitted in Canvas. **Weekly Assignment Essays, Special Assignment #1, and Special Assignment #2 may not be submitted after the 24-hour grace period** except in documented extenuating circumstances or when an applicable accommodation authorized by the UNT Office of Disability Access (ODA) provides otherwise. **Please email your assigned TA in advance if extenuating circumstances may affect your ability to meet a deadline.**

Quiz Policy

Module Check Quizzes are designed to test students' reading and listening skills and mastery of unit materials. These quizzes are timed. Due to the class size, I will return feedback on all written assignments within two weeks of the due date via canvas. If I see that I will be unable to return your feedback within that time frame, I will post an Announcement to let everyone know when it can be expected.

Instructor Feedback

The TAs and I will return feedback on all written assignments within one week of the due date via Canvas. If I see that we will be unable to return your feedback within that time frame, I will post an Announcement to let everyone know when it can be expected.

Late Work

All assignments have a 24-hour grace period following the stated due date. Work submitted during this grace period receives no late penalty.

Discussion Posts: After the 24-hour grace period, late Discussion Posts may be accepted with a penalty of 2 points per day, when the assignment remains available for submission in Canvas.

Weekly Assignment Essays, Special Assignment #1, and Special Assignment #2: These assignments will close at the end of the 24-hour grace period and will not ordinarily be reopened for late submission. Exceptions may be made for documented extenuating circumstances or when required by an applicable accommodation authorized by the UNT Office of Disability Access (ODA). Students are responsible for communicating such circumstances as early as reasonably possible.

Students are responsible for planning ahead and allowing sufficient time to complete and submit their work. The 24-hour grace period is intended to accommodate ordinary unforeseen personal or technical difficulties and should not be treated as an alternative due date. **Please email your assigned TA in advance if extenuating circumstances may affect your ability to meet a deadline.**

Attendance Policy

This class has no attendance policy.

Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus can be modified. All modifications will be announced via Canvas and explained in writing.

UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

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>

ODA Policy

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) and request a Letter of Accommodation for each course in which they intend to use their approved accommodations. Accommodation letters are provided to instructors through the ODA/AIM system. Students are responsible for initiating this process and should communicate with their instructors regarding the implementation of approved accommodations.

Accommodations become applicable to this course once the instructor has received the official Letter of Accommodation from the ODA. Students must request accommodation letters each semester. For additional information, visit the UNT 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.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Acceptable 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 forms, including university and electronic, classrooms, labs, groups and field trips.

See: [Student Code of Conduct](#)

Link: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>

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/

Student Evaluation Administration Dates

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email

that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the [SPOT website](http://spot.unt.edu/) (<http://spot.unt.edu/>) or email spot@unt.edu.

Health and Safety Information

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

Registration Information

See: [Registration Information](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/students>

Academic Calendar and Final Exam Schedule, Fall 2026

See: UNT FALL 2026 Semester Calendar

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/fall-2026-academic-calendar.pdf>

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>

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 for students in need. 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 resources, please visit:

See: [Mental Health Resources](#)

Link: <https://disparities.unt.edu/mental-health-resources>