**MUET 3030: Music Cultures of the World**

**Lecture:** Tuesday/Thursday; 11 a.m. -12:20 p.m. Music Building Room 258

**Labs:** Section 301, Tuesday; 10 -10:50 a.m. Music Building Room 321

Section 302, Thursday; 10 -10:50 a.m. Music Building Room 321

Section 303, Friday; 9 - 9:50 a.m. Music Building Room 321

Section 304, Friday; 1 – 1:50 p.m. Music Building Room 289

**Instructor**: Meng Ren (she/her)

**E-mail**: [mengren@my.unt.edu](mailto:mengren@my.unt.edu)

**Office Hours**: By appointment via e-mail

**Teaching Assistants (office hours by appointment)**

* John Rhodes ([johnrhodes2@my.unt.edu](mailto:johnrhodes2@my.unt.edu))
* Thanmayee Krishnamurthy ([thanmayeeholalkere-krishnamurthy@my.unt.edu](mailto:thanmayeeholalkere-krishnamurthy@my.unt.edu))

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

This course will introduce you to various musical traditions around the world. In particular, discussions on musical practices will emphasize music as a sociocultural phenomenon, exploring how music operates as a symbolic and cultural expression. This course will focus on musical practices from Native America, South American Andes, Mexico, Africa, India, Indonesia, and China.

The course also includes labs focused on ethnography. It introduces special topics on how music functions as a sociocultural phenomenon and encourages students to conduct their own ethnographic research on one of these topics.

By the end of this class, you should:

* Develop an understanding of the concept of music-culture
* Develop an increased understanding of various music-cultures around the world
* Develop critical listening skills
* Develop basic ethnographic skills

Note: This course is aligned with the University Core Curriculum, including objectives: critical thinking, communication, personal responsibility, and social responsibility.

**RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOK**

* *Worlds of Music:* *An Introduction to the Music of the World’s Peoples* (6th Edition), edited by Jeff Titon, published by Cengage Learning
* Additional materials will be posted on Canvas

**GRADE EVALUATION**

The course will be graded on a cumulative 1000-point scale (not including extra credit, which may be offered throughout the semester). To pass the course, students must maintain a passing grade of 600 (D) or higher. The points will be divided as such:

Unit 1 Exam 200 points

Unit 2 Exam 200 points

Unit 3 Exam 200 points

Writing Assignment 1 150 points

Assignment 2 250 points

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Total 1000 points

**ASSIGNMENTS**

Students will complete two major assignments for the semester. All electronic assignments, unless otherwise noted, must be typed in a separate document file and submitted through Canvas. Late submissions will receive 10% deductions for every day after the due date until the assignment is no longer available.

**Unless otherwise noted, essays must be formatted with 1-inch margins, double-spaced, with text in the Times New Roman font style, with a 12-point font size:**

1. **Soundscape Analysis (150 pts)**

This assignment is meant to encourage you to listen critically to the many sounds you engage with in your daily life. It will consist of two parts: a field journal (50 pts), and a typed essay (100 pts). For the field journal, you are to document every time you hear music and/or musical sounds in your daily life during four different 24-hour periods. At least one of these days should be a weekday, the other during the weekend.

You may choose to document your observations in a small notebook or an electronic device. For any musical sounds documented, please record the date, time, place, and a short description of what you observed. For full credit, two things must be submitted:

* the field journal itself (jpg photos of a physical notebook’s pages are acceptable), and
* a short electronic Word document (150 – 500 words) summarizing your findings and explaining parts of the journal you think may need clarification.

For the essay, you are to write a 1000 – 1250-word paper analyzing the data collected in the field journal (Font: Times New Roman, size 12, double-spaced, with page numbers. Use MLA or Chicago citation format). In the essay, at least three of the following topics should be considered in some form and at length. That is, not just addressing the topic, but also explaining why you think certain variations occur over time or place. The overall essay must be informed by data collected in the field journal:

* Time

Do you often visit the same place multiple times in the same day? Do the music/sounds there vary depending on the day or time-of-day? Why do you think this variation happens?

* Space

Do sounds/music vary depending on the place/space in which they occur? Why?

* Use

Do you think music is used for some reason in certain situations? Why?

* Function

Did you think music had certain functions in some situations? Why?

* Listening

Are there certain places, times-of-day, or contexts in which people are encouraged to listen in unique ways? Why?

* Engagement

Do audiences engage with music in different ways depending on where/when it occurs? Explain.

1. **Ethnographic Project (250 points)**

This assignment builds upon lab discussions on various music-related topics. It is a separate ethnographic assignment from the Soundscape Assignment. It consists of two parts:

**1). Field Journals (100 points)**

* **Themes/Topics:** Choose a theme or topic from the list provided at the end of this assignment description. You may select a topic whether or not it has been covered in the lab.
* **Ethnographic Site:** Select one specific location to visit weekly for fieldwork. Be sure to explain the reason why you think the location of your choice is the most appropriate field site.
* **Submissions:** Four field journals, each 300 words:
  + **Three Participant Observations:** Include time, place, location, people involved, and detailed descriptions of activities.
  + **One Interview:** Include time, place, location, interviewee, interview length, interview questions, and findings. If recording, inform the interviewee.

**2). Final Project (150 points)**

The final project consists of two key components. First, synthesize your field journals to draw conclusions about your chosen topic. Second, conduct additional research on the topic and compare the insights from your observations with your research findings.

Based on your fieldwork, explain how music plays a role in the topic. For example, identify recurring key words or concepts from your fieldwork and explain their significance.

In your research, review scholarly perspectives on the topic and compare them with your findings. If discrepancies arise, explore possible reasons for these differences. Use your fieldwork as evidence to support your analysis.

For the written project, you will submit a 1,000-1,500-word document (Font: Times New Roman, size 12, double-spaced, with page numbers. Use MLA or Chicago citation format). Your paper must include at least two direct quotes from your sources and cite a minimum of two scholarly references.

For the presentation, you will deliver a 15-minute summary of your fieldwork and research findings, highlighting the comparisons between them. You must incorporate at least two direct quotes from your sources and cite at least two scholarly references. If you choose to include a recording of your interview, ensure that you have obtained approval from your interviewee before the presentation.

Note: This assignment is aligned with the University’s Core Curriculum. As such, an approved Core Rubric will be used to score Ethnographic Project assignments *in addition* to the MUET 3030 class rubric. This Core Rubric will not affect grades or points in the class. Please submit your Ethnographic Project in two locations on Canvas: the “Ethnographic Project” assignment and the “Core Reporting Assessment” assignment.

**A list of proposed themes/topics:**

* 1. Music and performance/performativity
  2. Music and technology
  3. Music and violence
  4. Music and healing
  5. Music and memory/nostalgia
  6. Music and sexuality
  7. Music and politics
  8. Music and the environment
  9. Music and family tradition
  10. Music and migration
  11. Music and religion

**EXAMS**

The Unit 1 Exam will cover material from weeks 1 to 4 of class. The Unit 2 Exam will cover material discussed from weeks 6 to 8 of class. The Final Exam will cover material from weeks 10 to 14 of class. The format of all tests will include multiple choice questions, short answer responses, and listening examples.

**ATTENDANCE**

Class attendance is mandatory for all students. For this course, students are allowed up to three unexcused absences for each lecture, and up to three unexcused absences for each lab, after which each unexcused absence will result in a 10% deduction on the student’s final grade. Non-emergency absences that have not received prior approval from the instructor will be counted as unexcused. Please be aware that some excuses may require documentation. A document on UNT’s authorized absence policy will be available to you on Canvas. With prior approval from the instructor, students are allowed to attend alternate lab sections up to three times before being marked absent from their assigned lab on each consecutive absence.

Starting on the second week of class, a seating chart will be provided that indicates the seating placement for each lab group; students must sit in the area of their group as indicated in the chart. Before the beginning of class, four attendance sheets with each representative lab section will be posted at the back of the classroom. Students will initial the attendance sheet respective to their lab group before proceeding to their seat. Attendance sheets will be taken down after the first 15 minutes of class. Signing in will be required to be marked present for the course on a particular day. You will be marked tardy if you arrive after the attendance sheet has been taken down. Three tardies will be counted as one unexcused absence. TAs will complete sign in procedures for lab sections.

If an emergency arises that forces you to leave class in the middle of a lecture or lab, please inform a TA before leaving; as failure to do so will result in you being marked absent. Otherwise, leaving during class will result in an absence for that period.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

The following is a general outline of the topics discussed in this course. Please be aware that slight changes may occur due to unexpected circumstances. All readings/assignments for a particular day are expected to be completed before lectures and labs.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Week | Date | Topic | Readings/Assignments |
| 1 | 8/20 | Course Introduction - Ethnomusicology | * [Optional] Miner 1956 |
| 8/22 |
| 2 | 8/27 | Music Cultures & Acoustemology | * Titon, Ch. 1 * [Optional] Feld 1982, 60-85 |
| 8/29 |
| 3 | 9/3 | Native America | * Titon, Ch. 2 |
| 9/5 |
| 4 | 9/10 | India |  |
| 9/12 |
| 5 | 9/17 | *Unit 1 Preparation* | NONE – prepare for Unit 1 Exam |
| 9/19 | Guest lectures |  |
| 6 | 9/24 | Exam 1 &  Tabla guest lecture | * Exam 1 |
| 9/26 | *Soundscape Field Journal Due (9/27, 11:59pm)* |
| 7 | 10/1 | South America | * Titon, Ch. 6 |
| 10/3 |
| 8 | 10/8 | Africa: Ewe | * Titon, Ch. 3, 139-173 |
| 10/10 |
| 9 | 10/15 | Shona & BaAka | Titon, Ch. 3 |
| 10/17 | *No Class* |
| 10 | 10/22 | Exam 2 | Prepare for Exam 2 |
| 10/24 | *-Exam 2*  *-Soundscape Essay Due (10/25, 11:59pm)* |
| 11 | 10/29 | Indonesia: Java | * Titon, Ch. 7, 333-366 |
| 10/31 | Java (continued) | *Field Journal 1 Due (11/1, 11:59 p.m.)* |
| 12 | 11/5 | Indonesia: Bali | * Titon, Ch. 7, 369-372 |
| 11/7 | *Field Journal 2 Due (11/8, 11:59 p.m.)* |
| 13 | 11/12 | China | * Titon, Ch. 8 |
| 11/14 | *Field Journal 3 Due (11/15, 11:59 p.m.)* |
| 14 | 11/19 | China – Popular Traditions | * None |
| 11/21 | *Field Journal 4 Due (11/22, 11:59 p.m.)* |
| 15 | 11/26 | Wrapping Things Up: Major Themes | *Final Project Due (12/05, 11:59pm)* |
| 11/28 | Thanksgiving: No class |
| 16 | 12/3 | Final Review | NONE – prepare for Final Exam |
| 12/5 | *Final Exam, Musi 258*  *10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.* |

**ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY**

Due to classroom design, the use of electronic tablet stands, laptops, and cellphones is ***prohibited*** without prior permission from the instructor. This is to ensure a learning environment with as few distractions as possible for all. Two exceptions are allowed without prior permission:

* Students may use an electronic tablet so long as it remains flat on their desk and only visible to the user.
* Students may use a convertible laptop form so long as it remains flat on their desk.

NOTE: Cellphones are unconditionally prohibited without prior instructor approval.

Students who fail to adhere to this policy will receive a warning before they are counted absent for the class period. The TAs will enforce this policy and may, or may not, offer additional warnings at their discretion. If there is an **emergency** that requires you to have access to a cellphone or similar communication device, please let the instructors and TAs know before class.

While using authorized electronic devices, the recording of class lectures in any way without prior permission is prohibited.

**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.

**UIT Help Desk:** UIT Student Help Desk site (http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm)

**Email:** helpdesk@unt.edu

**Phone:** 940-565-2324

**In Person:** Sage Hall, Room 130

**Walk-In Availability:** 8am-9pm

**Telephone Availability:**

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

**Laptop Checkout**: 8am-7pm

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

**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](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003)

LINK: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>

**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.

See: [Student Code of Conduct](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/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](http://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](http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/)

LINK:  [eagleconnect.unt.edu/](http://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](https://disability.unt.edu/)

LINK: [disability.unt.edu](http://disability.unt.edu/). (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

**Health and Safety Information**

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

**Registration Information for Students**

See: [Registration Information](https://registrar.unt.edu/students)

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

**Academic Calendar, Fall 2024**

See: [Fall 2024 Academic Calendar](https://registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/fall-2024-academic-calendar.pdf)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/fall-2024-academic-calendar.pdf>

**Final Exam Schedule, Fall 2024**

See above

**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](http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap)

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](http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap)

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](http://ferpa.unt.edu/)

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](http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)

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

For more information on mental health resources, please visit:

See:  [Mental Health Resources](https://disparities.unt.edu/mental-health-resources)

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

**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-academic-calendar.html>

**STUDENT RESOURCES**

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

See: [Student Resources](https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources)

Link: <https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>

**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](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team)

Link: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>