

Dr. Friedson
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Office Hours: M–W 11:00-12:00 (rm. 313) or by appointment
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Syllabus
MUET 3030: Music Cultures of the World
Fall Semester 2025

Course Information:

Lecture: M-W, 9:30-10:50, MUSI 321
Labs: MUET 3030.305 – Fri 10am, MUSI 320
MUET 3030.306 – Fri 9am, MUSI 2006

A selected survey of music cultures of the world. We will examine musical traditions from a perspective that emphasizes music as an integral part of society and culture.

Course Objectives:

- 1) To increase understanding of diverse music cultures.
- 2) To develop awareness and appreciation of aesthetic dimensions of culture.
- 3) To acquire critical listening skills.

Related Disciplines and Majors:

A broader understanding of music cultures offers to majors in all fields of study a greater appreciation for the diversity and creativity of humankind.

Potential Student Benefits:

Music making is a universal human activity. All cultures have music, and as such it is an important and worthy area of study that too often has been neglected. The study of non-Western music offers students a deeper understanding of not only other peoples, but also the possibility of gaining new insights into their own culture.

Grade Evaluation

There are a total of 800 points for the course:*

- Attendance (100 points)
- Lab Attendance and Discussion (100 points)
- 3 Written Assignments (100 points each)
- 3 Tests (100 points each)

*Throughout the semester there will be opportunities to earn extra credit points.

Attendance:

You automatically receive 100 points for appearing on the official audit class roll. Therefore, everyone starts the class with an “A.” For each class missed without an excused absence you will lose 4 points. For each lab missed without an excused absence you will lose 8 points. An excused absence is at the discretion of the instructor and may require documentation. However, given that unexpected circumstances may arise during the semester, you are allowed 2 unexcused absences with no deduction. Throughout the semester your attendance record may be accessed via Canvas. If you are ill or have symptoms, notify me and the TA by email and, if you are well

enough, you may join class (but not the lab) via Zoom through Canvas with no point deduction. If you are too ill to join, this will be treated as an excused absence.

Tests (300 points)

Tests will include multiple choice, short answers, essay questions, and listening examples.

Written Assignments (300 points)

You will have three written assignments, each worth 100 points: Personal Narrative, Musicscape Fieldwork, Music Event Ethnography.

- All written assignments must be a minimum 3 full pages (750 words)
- Papers must be in 12-point font, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins.
- Submission: Upload via Canvas (late submission: 10% deduction if submitted within one week of the due date, 20% within two weeks of due date, 0 points later than two weeks)
- Your paper will be scanned by Turnitin for plagiarism and use of AI including Grammarly. Point deduction will be commensurate with the degree of plagiarism and/or AI.
- Canvas is set for unlimited "Allowed Attempts" until the due date.

In order to pass the course, you must have a passing attendance mark (a minimum 60% of class attendance points and 60% of lab attendance), complete the written assignments, and receive a passing grade for the accumulated points of the three tests.

Grade Calculation

Your grade is based on the following standard percentage of points earned:

720–800 (90%)	= A
640–719 (80%)	= B
560–639 (70%)	= C
480–559 (60%)	= D
Below 480	= F

All grades will be submitted on Canvas within two weeks of the submission date.

Classroom Conduct:

Attending class is a commitment to stay for the entire class period. If you leave before the end of class, without prior approval, you will be counted absent. If you arrive for class or login to Zoom 15 minutes after class starts, you will be counted absent.

Electronic Device Policy: Regular Scheduled Classes

All electronic devices, including cellphones are 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 TA 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, let the TA know before class. While using authorized electronic devices, the recording of class lectures in any way without prior permission is prohibited.

Lab Attendance and Participation (100 points)

Each lab session will feature group discussions on the class reading(s) of that week. See a full description of lab policy on the lab site on Canvas.

Lab Electronic Device Policy

Bring your computer/tablet to the lab so that you have access to the readings and media. Phones are expected to be put away during lab time.

Required Readings:

No required text for this course; however, we will be using selected chapters from *Worlds of Music* (Jeff Titon ed.), 5th edition, which, along with other readings will be posted on Canvas. All media examples are either posted on Canvas or available through Willis Library electronic reserve.

SCHEDULE of CLASSES

The following is a tentative schedule of class content and may be revised as the semester progresses.

	Class Meeting	TOPIC
Week 1	Class Meeting 1 8/18	Introduction to class and general overview
	Class Meeting 2 8/20	Ethnomusicology and the Study of Music-Culture
Week 2	Class Meeting 3 8/25	Sounds from the Rainforest of Papua New Guinea
	Class Meeting 4 8/27	Birds, Weeping, Poetics, and Song
Week 3	9/01	NO CLASS: LABOR DAY
	Class Meeting 6 9/03	Animistic Soundscapes of Central Asia Where Rivers and Mountains Sing
	Class Meeting 7 9/08	Navajo Healing

Week 4	Class Meeting 8 9/10	Singers and the One-Sung-Over
Week 5	Class Meeting 9 9/15	Peyote Songs and The Native American Church
	Class Meeting 10 9/17	Review for Test #1
Week 6	Class Meeting 11 9/22	TEST #1
	Class Meeting 12 9/24	Classical Music of the Non-Western World Sitar and the Tabla
Week 7	Class Meeting 13 9/29	Guest Artists
	Class Meeting 14 10/01	From Temple to the Concert Stage: Carnatic Classical Music of South India
Week 8	Class Meeting 15 10/06	Guest Artist
	Class Meeting 16 10/08	Many Musics of India Bollywood
Week 9	Class Meeting 17 10/13	Javanese Gamelans of the Royal Courts
	Class Meeting 18 10/15	Cont.
Week 10	Class Meeting 19 10/20	Balinese Gamelan
	Class Meeting 20 10/22	Cont.

Week 11	Class Meeting 21 10/27	Review for Test 2
	Class Meeting 22 10/29	Test #2
Week 12	Class Meeting 23 11/03	Introduction to African Music Ewe of Ghana
	Class Meeting 24 11/05	Divine Horsemen of the Black Atlantic
Week 13	Class Meeting 25 11/10	Dancing Prophets and the Drums of Affliction
	Class Meeting 26 11/12	Zimbabwe: Soul of Mbira
Week 14	Class Meeting 27 11/17	Praise for Patronage Griots of West Africa Drummers of Dagbon
	Class Meeting 28 11/19	Sounds from the Rainforests of Central Africa
	11/24-11/28	Thanksgiving Break
Week 15	Class Meeting 29 12/01	BaAka: People of the Forest
	Class Meeting 30 12/03	Review for Final
	FINAL	Wednesday, December 10, 8:00-10:00 AM

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>

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](#)

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/

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)

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](#)

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

Academic Calendar, Fall 2025

See: [Fall 2025 Registration Information](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html>

Final Exam Schedule, Fall 2025

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 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 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>

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](#)

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](#)

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