MUET 5210/6010: Seminar in Ethnomusicology

Music and Ritual

*Ritual exists only in becoming other than it is.*

-------Paraphrase of Hans Georg Gadamer on tradition

Dr. Steven Friedson
Office hours: T-R 12:30-2:00 or by appointment
Music Building rm. 313
Phone: 940 369-7541
steven.friedson@unt.edu

All cultures have some form of ritual music. According to Bruno Nettl, it may be one of the true
universals of music culture. Making music together, in fact, may be the Ur-ritual where the
*Mitsein* (being-with) of human comportment was forged. From its possible proto-musical origins
in our hominid ancestors, to current iterations in both sacred and secular contexts, the
music/ritual nexus will be explored from an ontomusicological perspective, an approach that
questions music *as* ritual and ritual *as* music.

**Class Structure:**
Each week a member of the seminar will present a 1-2 page protocol that summarizes the
previous week’s discussion and poses a series of questions that carries issues and concerns
forward.

**Grade Assessment:**
Seminar paper (15-20 pages), assignments, and class participation. Class participation
encompasses several measures of engagement with the class, including effectiveness of protocol
presentations and general level of contribution to class discussions.

A paper proposal (roughly two pages) is due the 6th week of class. An annotated bibliography is
due the 8th week of class.

**Requirements:**

- Ability to conduct independent research
- Writing skills commensurate with a graduate seminar
- Engagement in class discussion

**Readings:**
Selected readings will be posted on Canvas.
(The following is a tentative schedule of class content and readings, subject to change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Meeting</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Class Meeting 1  
1/19                     | Overview of seminar/Introduction to the course.                        |
| Class Meeting 2  
1/26                     | Definitions of Ritual: How do we know it when we see (make that hear)
|                         | it?                                                                   |
| Class Meeting 3  
2/02                     | Music *as* Ritual/Ritual *as* Music                                    |
| Class Meeting 4  
2/09                     | Cont.                                                                  |
| Class Meeting 5  
2/16                     | UrRitual: Hominin Beginnings                                           |
| Class Meeting 6  
2/23 Paper Proposal Due | Cont.                                                                  |
| Class Meeting 7  
3/02                     | Functionalist and Structuralist Approaches to the Study of Ritual      |
| Class Meeting 8  
3/09 Annotated Bibliography Due | Cont.                                                                |
| No Class 3/16 SPRING BREAK | Cont.                                                              |
| Class Meeting 9  
3/23                     | Ritual as Lived Experience: Phenomenological Approaches               |
| Class Meeting 10  
3/30                     | Cont.                                                                  |
| Class Meeting 11  
4/06                     | Cont.                                                                  |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Meeting 12</th>
<th>The Ontological Turn: Ritual Transformations of Consciousness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Meeting 13</td>
<td>Cont.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Meeting 14</td>
<td>Postlude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/27</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Meeting 15</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/04</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/11</td>
<td>Final paper due (submit on Canvas)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
See: Academic Integrity
LINK: https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003

STUDENT BEHAVIOR
See: Student Code of Conduct
Link: https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct

ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT
See: Eagle Connect
LINK: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

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

UNT Policy Statement on Diversity
See: Diversity and Inclusion
Link: https://idea.unt.edu/diversity-inclusion

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

Final Exam Schedule
Paper in lieu of final exam

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress
See: Financial Aid
LINK: http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap

RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS
See: FERPA
Link: http://ferpa.unt.edu/

COUNSELING AND TESTING
See: Counseling and Testing
Link: http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services.

For more information on mental health issues, please visit:
See: 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. After the 12th class day, students must first submit a completed “Request to Drop” form to the Registrar’s Office. The last day for a student to drop a class in Fall, 2021 is November 12. Information about add/drop may be found at:
See: Drops and Withdrawals
Link: https://sfs.unt.edu/class-drop-and-withdrawal-refunds
(Also see Academic Calendar, listed above)

STUDENT RESOURCES
The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to:
See: Student Resources
Link: https://www.unt.edu/sites/default/files/resource_sheet.pdf