MUET 3090 / 5090
हिन्दुस्तानी शास्त्रीय संगीत
NORTH INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC

Tuesday / Thursday: 12:30-1:50pm, MUS 100

Instructor: Vivek Virani - Vivek.Virani@UNT.edu
Office: Music Building 146
Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays by appointment

This class explores Hindustānī Shāstrīya Saṅgīt or North Indian Classical music, and related traditions. We will learn about this music in many facets – historically, theoretically, analytically, and through first-hand performance. All students will be required to sing during class, and are welcome to bring instruments as well.

EVALUATION

- Quizzes – 20%
  - Quizzes will be given in class every 2-3 weeks. I will always be clear about what material is fair game for quizzes, but will not always announce quizzes beforehand!
- Listening / Analysis Assignments – 10%
- Written Assignments – 15%
  - Three short written responses on various topics will be assigned during the course. Each will count for 5% of your final grade.
- Composition Assignments – 15%
  - You will be assigned three small composition projects over the course. Each will count for 5% of your final grade
- Article Summary / Discussion – 10%
  - You will (as a pair or small group) lead the class in the discussion of one article.
- Final Project – 15%
- Participation – 15%

Attendance policy: Each student is permitted one unexcused absence with no grade penalty and no questions asked. Following that, each unexcused absence will result in a 5% grade penalty.

COURSE OUTLINE

Introduction

Week 1
Jan. 16 & 18
- Basic Concepts of rāga and sargam
- Reading: selections from Jairazbhoy’s Rāgs of North Indian Music
- Performance: Rāga Yaman and Bhūpālī
Week 2  
Jan. 23 & 25  
**Early Indian Philosophy of Sound**  
- Sound in the *Vedas, Upaniṣhads*, and *Nāṭya Śāstra*  
- Introduction to Dhrupad  
- Basic Concepts of *tāla*  
- Reading: Widdess & Sanyal – “The Historical Emergence of Dhrupad Style”  
- Performance: Dhrupad in Yaman and Bhupālī  

Week 3  
Jan. 30 & Feb. 1  
**Rāga – Critical and Cultural Definitions**  
- Structural, cultural, and affective approaches to musical classification  
- Reading: Deepak Raja- “Perspectives on ‘Raga-ness’”  
- Performance: Rāga Bhairav and Marwa  

Week 4  
Feb. 6 & 8  
**Introduction to Khyāl**  
- History and Musical Structure of Khyāl  
- *Tāl* and *ṭhekā*  
- Reading: Katherine Butler Brown – “The Origins and Early Development of Khyāl”  
- Performance: Khyāl in Rāga Bhimpalāsī  

Week 5  
Feb. 13 & 15  
**Contemporary Khyāl**  
- Contemporary Khyāl, Performance Practice, Gharānā legacies, Social Life  
- Reading: Wim van der Meer – “Music and its Larger Social Environment”; Daniel Neuman “Being a Musician”  
- Performance: Baḍhā Khyāl in Yaman  

Week 6  
Feb. 20 & 22  
**Modernity & Nationalism in Hindustani Music**  
- *Thāṭ* system, Bhatkhande & Paluskar, Classical Music and National Culture  
- Reading: Janaki Bakhle – “The Contradictions of Music’s Modernity”  
- Performance: Tabla – expandable forms  

Week 7  
Feb. 27 & March 1  
**Tabla and Rhythmic Theory**  
- History of tabla, gharānas, performance practice  
- Reading: Kippen – TBD  
- Performance: Tabla – fixed compositional forms  

Week 8  
March 6 & 8  
**Instrumental Music**  
- Reading: Allyn Miner – “Sources on the Early History of the *Tambūr*, Rabab, Sitar, and Sarod”
March 13 & 15
*** SPRING BREAK ***

** Week 9 **
Embodiment and Creativity
March 20 & 17
- Reading: Dard Neuman - Pedagogy, Practice, and Embodied Creativity
- Performance: Instrumental Gats and Improvisation

** Week 10 **
Thumri and Ghazal
March 27 & 29
- Reading: Du’Perron - “Thumri: A Discussion of the Female Voice of Hindustani Music”
- Performance: Thumri and Bol Banao Improvisation

** Week 11 **
Devotional Genres: Bhajan and Qawwālī
April 3 & 5
- Reading: TBD
- Performance: Bhajan in Miān Malhār, Khusravī Qawwālī

** Week 12 **
East Meet West, West Eats Meet
April 10 & 12
- Indian Music and “the West,” Foreignreturned musicians and the rise of “Fusion music”
- Reading: Gerry Farrell – “Three Journeys to the West”

** Week 13 - 14 **
Current Topics

** Week 14 - 15 **
Student Performances and Presentations

Academic Integrity
Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students, 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.

Statement of Religious Liberty
Some of the songs we will sing during this class have texts that implicitly or explicitly refer to deities or other religious concepts. Our performance of this music does not, of course, amount to a profession of any particular faith. Within India, it is the norm for singers of all faiths to perform texts from any religious tradition, and to take their own aesthetic or spiritual meanings from these pieces.

If however, your own religious beliefs – including beliefs in secular humanism or atheism – prohibit you from singing these words, please talk to me and we will work out an alternative.

**Student Resources**

**Writing Lab**

Strong writing skills are an important asset in academic and professional life in every field. During class, we will work to improve student writing skills through instructor feedback and group workshops. However, many students will benefit from intensive focus on writing skills that we will not have time to provide during class. I encourage all students who wish to further develop their writing skills to work with the UNT Writing Lab. [http://writinglab.unt.edu/](http://writinglab.unt.edu/)

**Student Counseling and Testing Services**

It is important to us for students to excel academically, but it is far more important that you maintain your physical, emotional, and mental well-being. Students face many demands and responsibilities from their academic and personal lives and sometimes the stresses or anxieties can be overwhelming if not dealt with. As your instructor, I am happy to be a part of your support network, and am always open to talk if you have issues you would like to discuss. Additionally, UNT provides its students many resources for mental and emotional health. [http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-testing-services](http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-testing-services)

**Office of Disability Accommodation**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their
designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at http://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.