MUET 3070  
ASIAN POPULAR MUSIC  
FALL 2016

Instructor: Vivek Virani  
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-3 or by appointment  
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COURSE OVERVIEW

This course explores many diverse and vibrant genres and styles that fall under the broad category of “Asian Popular Music.” The course is not intended to be a comprehensive survey. Rather, we will look at select genres and case studies with the goal of initiating broader discussions about cultural theory, identity, race, class, gender, globalization, and other issues that are deeply entwined with the production and consumption of popular music in Asia and throughout the world.

Students should emerge from this course with a broader awareness of the diversity of cultures and styles in Asia as well as a deeper understanding of their own engagements with popular culture in the world around them.

Required Reading and Responses

Reading assignments will be posted on Blackboard every week. These will include scholarly articles as well as popular media items including news articles, podcasts, and YouTube videos. Each week, students are expected to complete the reading assignments and post a response on Blackboard by Tuesday, 8pm. By Wednesday, 8pm, students should respond to and engage with other classmates’ comments. Extra points will be given for insightful and well-considered comments.

Assignments and Evaluation

1. In-class Quizzes (x3) – 15%

2. Weekly Reading Responses – 15% (5 points per week)  
   a. One original response to reading – 2 points (by Tuesday 8pm)  
   b. Two comments on other student responses – 1 point each (by Wednesday 8pm)  
   c. Insightful comment, connection to theory or comparison to other material – 1 point

3. Small Writing Assignments – 20%  
   a. Personal Playlist – 6%  
   b. CD / Album review – 7%  
   c. Music Video analysis – 7%

4. Final Research Project – 30%  
   a. Project Proposal – 2.5% (Week 10)  
   b. Abstract & Outline – 2.5% (Week 13 or 14)  
   c. Presentation – 10% (Week 15)
d. Final Paper – 15% (December 12)
   i. Undergraduate: 8-10 pages double-spaced
   ii. Graduate: 15-20 pages double-spaced

5. Attendance and Participation – 20%
   a. For first 3 unexcused absences, students will be deducted 2 points per absence
   b. Each subsequent unexcused absence will result in 5 point deduction
   c. After 6 unexcused absences, students will be advised to withdraw from course
   d. Absences are unexcused if I am not notified BEFORE CLASS. (Unexcused absence due to sudden illness may be overturned if doctor’s note is provided)

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 | September 1  Introduction

PART I: EAST ASIA
Week 2 | September 8  Japan
Week 3 | September 15  Korea
Week 4 | September 22  China

PART II: SOUTH & SOUTHEAST ASIA
Week 5 | September 29  Indonesia & Malaysia
   ** Quiz #1 **
Week 6 | October 6  Cambodia, Thailand & Vietnam
Week 7 | October 13  India
Week 8 | October 20  Pakistan & Muslim Pop

PART III: WEST & CENTRAL ASIA
Week 9 | October 27  Iran & Afghanistan
   ** Quiz #2 **
Week 10 | November 3  Turkey
Week 11 | November 10  Arab Pop
Week 12 | November 17  Mongolia & Kazakhstan

PART IV: CONCLUSIONS AND FINAL PRESENTATIONS
Week 13 | November 24  THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS
Week 14 | September 1  TBD
   ** Quiz #3 **
Week 15 | December 8  Final Presentation

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES

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, 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.

http://facultysuccess.unt.edu/academic-integrity

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/

Office of Disability Accommodation

College life poses different challenges for students with disabilities. If you’ve been diagnosed with a learning difference such as dyslexia, or if you need a physical accommodation, the Office of Disability Accommodation will make sure you receive the support you need to succeed at UNT. You can apply for services or find out if you qualify for services online by visiting the office in Sage Hall, Suite 167, or calling 940-565-4323.

http://disability.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