COURSE OVERVIEW

This course introduces students to the history, theory, and practice of ethnomusicology. It includes both seminal texts from the discipline and current literature on emerging issues and topics. Students will be exposed to multiple perspectives from ethnomusicology and its related disciplines, including musicology, anthropology, folklore, critical theory, and cultural studies.

The primary objective of this course is to provide students with a richer understanding of the various roles, meanings, and functions of music in human life. Furthermore, students should leave the class with a diverse analytical toolkit for their own music-related research endeavors.

Required Reading and Responses

Weekly readings will be posted on BlackBoard. In addition, students are expected to obtain the following books, from which several chapters will be assigned as course readings:


Every week, students will submit a brief (1-2 paragraph) response based on the week’s reading(s) by 8pm on Monday evening. Every Thursday from weeks 5-13, students will lead discussions based on readings from *Ethnomusicology: A Contemporary Reader*. During these weeks, the group leading the discussion will post discussion questions on Blackboard by the Monday of the week, and all other students will post responses by 8pm on the Wednesday before the in-class discussion.
Assignments and Evaluation

Unless otherwise noted, assignments are due by 11:59PM on the Thursday of the specified week.

1. Small Writing Assignments – 15%
   a. “Soundscape” Writing exercise (Week 2)
   b. “My Musical Life” Interview (Week 5)

2. Ethnographic Research Project – 40%
   a. Site Proposal – 2.5% (Week 6)
   b. Fieldwork Report – 5% (Week 10)
   c. Abstract & Outline – 2.5% (Week 14)
   d. Presentation – 10% (Weeks 13-15)
   e. Final Paper – 20% (December 12)
      i. Undergraduate: 8-10 pages double-spaced
      ii. Graduate: 15-20 pages double-spaced

3. Reading Responses – 25%
   a. Weekly Responses (Due by 8pm Monday) – 10%
   b. Student Discussion Responses (Due by 8pm Wednesday, Weeks 5-12) – 10%
   c. Student-led Discussion (Thursdays, Weeks 5-12) – 5%
   d. Discussion responses posted between 8-12pm on the due date will receive half credit

4. Attendance and Participation – 20%
   a. For first 3 unexcused absences, students will be deducted 2 percentage points per absence
   b. Each subsequent unexcused absence will result in 5 percentage 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)

5. Critical Ethnography Review (Graduate Students Only)

Course Outline

Week 1
Aug. 30 & Sept. 1

Introduction – Defining Music and Ethnomusicology

Week 2
September 6 & 8

What does it mean to study music?
“Musicking”; “Soundscapes” and “sound ecologies”
**Week 3**  
September 13 & 15  
**Comparative Musicology**  
18th-19th ethnography; studies of “primitive” and “folk” musics; the legacy of A. J. Ellis

**Week 4**  
September 20 & 22  
**Anthropology of Music, Music Cultures**  
Lomax, Merriam, Hood; post-war American ethnomusicology

**Week 5**  
September 27 & 29  
**Ethnomusicology as a Humanistic Discipline**  
John Blacking; “people making music”; musicality

**Week 6**  
October 4 & 6  
**Sound Structure and Social Structure**

**Week 7**  
October 11 & 13  
**Intro to Field Research**  
Choosing a site; documentation; participant-observation

**Week 8**  
October 18 & 20  
**Writing Music and Culture**  
Ethnographic writing; reflexivity; interpretation

**Weeks 9-12**  
October 25, 27  
November 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, & 17  
**Case Studies and Current Issues in Ethnomusicology**

**Week 13-15**  
November 22, 29  
December 1, 6 & 8  
**Student Final Presentations and Discussion**

**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