MUET 5230: WORLD MUSIC ANALYSIS

Tuesday and Thursday 12:30-1:50pm
Classes Delivered Remotely via Zoom Platform

Instructor: Vivek Virani (he/him)
Contact: Vivek.Virani@unt.edu, or Canvas message system
Office Hours: By appointment, Tuesday and Thursday preferred

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course serves as an introduction to diverse analytical approaches to the study of music from any genre or style. Material for the course includes major studies and debates about transcription from the early days of ethnomusicology as well as emerging scholarship on cross-cultural musical analysis. During the semester, students will complete regular transcription and listening exercises using different visual representation methods and will be encouraged to explore their own transcription methods to serve different musical genres and analytical goals.

EVALUATION

Class Participation and In-Class Exercises (30%)

Class time will be divided between open seminar discussion based on pre-assigned readings, breakout sessions to workshop or discuss transcriptions, and in-class transcription and listening exercises.

Students are expected to attend class sessions synchronously, to come prepared and participate actively in all activities. Due to the workshop format of the course, attendance is imperative. In case of a foreseeable absence, students should notify the instructor as soon as possible. For excused absences, students may be given an opportunity to make up activities missed during a class session.

Any student who accrues 5 unexcused absences will be asked to withdraw from the course.

COVID-19 Attendance Statement

Academic excellence is important, but your health and wellbeing always take the first priority. If you are experiencing physical or mental health difficulties directly or indirectly related to the global pandemic that may interfere with your success in this course, please communicate with the instructor as soon as possible. In most cases, the instructor will do whatever is possible to determine appropriate accommodations to help you succeed in the class.

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to
campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Hotline at 844-366-5892 or COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

Assignments (40%)
You will be expected to complete several brief transcription, analyses, and short writing exercises. In most cases, an assignment will be due every week, or every two weeks in the case of larger assignments.

Late Policy
Assignments should be completed on time. In most cases, students will share their assignments in small groups or present them to the class; late completion of assignments in these circumstances may result in a student losing all participation points for a class session. In general, unless the instructor has approved an extension, assignments will be penalized 10% per day for late submission and will not be accepted a week past their original deadline.

Final Project (30%)
Each student will complete an analytical project on a topic of their choice, including an in-class presentation (5%) and a written paper (25%). Guidelines for the project can be found on page 6.

Note: The current syllabus, and particularly its modes of content delivery and evaluation, reflect many changes and compromises made to accommodate the circumstances of the global pandemic. Furthermore, the previous year has revealed that situations may occur mid-semester that necessitate changes in content delivery or evaluation. Accordingly, the instructor reserves the right to alter the syllabus, including evaluation criteria, mid-semester if circumstances necessitate. However, no changes that may impact students’ grades will be made without an open discussion with the class and consideration of all students’ perspectives and needs.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Technology Requirements for Remote Instruction
Students are expected to have access to:
- A device capable of accessing Zoom and Canvas (desktop or laptop computer, tablet, etc.).
- A stable internet connection.
- A microphone and web camera (either discrete or integrated into the device used to access class meetings).
- Sufficient technological competence to use Zoom, Canvas, and Microsoft Office.
Additionally, there are many software that may be useful in the process of transcription and analysis. Students are welcome to use almost any software they prefer for their assignments over the semester in most cases this will be entirely optional. A list of recommended free or low-cost options will be provided on Canvas.

Students may decide to use handwritten transcriptions, software transcriptions, or some combination of both during the course, but they must have a means of rendering these transcriptions into digital form to be shared during class sessions. This may include a scanner or a scanning app that uses a smartphone camera.

Further helpful information on how to succeed in a remote learning environment can be found at https://online.unt.edu/learn.

If you have difficulty gaining access to any of the necessarily materials, please communicate with the instructor as soon as possible.

Required Texts

Students are required to obtain a copy of Analytical Studies in World Music, edited by Michael Tenzer (2006, Oxford University Press). We will read several selections from this volume (indicated on the syllabus by ASWM). All other required readings will be accessible through Canvas.

Course Content

The class is divided into modules centered around major musical structures or systems. Although the time limitations of the course preclude a deep or thorough exploration of any single genre, modules may include a deep focus into specific genres that have received significant analytical attention in scholarship and/or that are significant within the ethnomusicology program at UNT.

The genres and studies highlighted provide helpful case studies for particular approaches to transcription and analysis. Following the introductory module, the rest of the course will primarily be dedicated to 1) rhythmic analysis, 2) modal/melodic analysis, 3) formal / textural analysis, in that sequence. Students will be encouraged to apply the approaches they learn through these case studies to other genres of music.

Module 1: Introduction to Transcription and Analysis in Ethnomusicology

Week 1 Week 10
Week 2


Week 3


Module 2: Case Studies in Genre Analysis

Week 4

- Blum, Stephen. 2006. “Navā‘i, a Music Genre of Northeastern Iran.” Chapter 1 in ASWM.
- Manuel, Peter. 2006. “Flamenco in Focus: An Analysis of a Performance of Soleareas.” Chapter 3 in ASWM.

Week 5


Module 3: Rhythmic Analysis

Genre Focus: West African Percussion Ensembles

Week 6


Week 7

Week 8

Module 4: Interlude
Considerations of Tuning and the Speech-Song Continuum

Week 9

Module 5: Modal Analysis
Genre Focus: Hindustani and Arab Classical Music

Week 10

Week 11

Module 6: Form and Structural Analysis
Genre Focus: Chinese Silk and Bamboo, Carnatic Music
Week 12

Week 13
• Morris, Robert. 2006. “Architectonic Composition in South Indian Classical Music: The ‘Navaragamalika Varnam’” Chapter 9 in ASWM.

Module 7: Workshopping and Presenting Final Projects (Weeks 14-15)

Final Project Guidelines
Each student will prepare a final project based on analysis of a selection of music of their choice. It may be a comparative analysis or may deal with a single example. All projects must involve:
1. Original transcriptions of the music selections involved.
   a. Students must use AT LEAST TWO different forms of transcription (e.g. staff notation and time-unit-box diagram).
2. Some commentary on why these particular forms of transcription were chosen, in consideration of the student’s intended argument.
3. A clear and well-supported argument that is supported by the transcriptions and analysis. The argument must be more intellectually involved than “this music is really cool, and here are some diagrams.”
4. Background research into relevant cultural and social aspects of the music genre discussed.
5. High-scoring papers will make a serious effort to engage cultural knowledge about the music with structural/analytical observations.
6. Papers should be 10-15 pages long (but length is not as important as coherence of the central argument).

Students will present their projects during the last two weeks of the semester (projects may not necessarily be in their completed state at time of presentation). Presentations should be professionally prepared and delivered, with visual aids (e.g. working transcriptions) and audio examples if applicable.

Final Papers are due by 11:59pm on the day of the last class period Thursday, April 22
POLICIES AND RESOURCES

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.
https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003.AcadIntegrity.Final_.pdf

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: disability.unt.edu. Phone: (940) 565-4323

2020-2021 Semester Academic Schedule (with Add/Drop Dates)
https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-registration-guide

Academic Calendar at a Glance, 2020-2021
https://www.unt.edu/catalogs/2020-21/calendar

Counseling and Testing
UNT’s Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor whose position includes 16 hours per week of dedicated service to students in the College
of Music and the College of Visual Arts and Design. Please visit the Center’s website for further information:
http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services.

For more information on mental health issues, please visit:

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 Spring, 2021 is April 2. Information about add/drop may be found at:
https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-registration-guide

Student Resources
The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to: