Music of the Americas

MUSC 222
Locations and Meeting Times: TBA

Professor: Dr. Ian Rollins
Email: irollins@tamu.edu
Office: Academic 402CD
Office hours: TBA

Course Description
Evolution of music of the Americas and the Caribbean; influence of natives, people of forced relocation, and people from European communities; the syncretic process of music making.

Prerequisites - None

Learning Outcomes
- Identify styles of music through listening exams
- Discuss the evolution of musical style in popular, folk, and classical traditions
- Apply listening skills in assessments

This course satisfies Texas A&M’s International and Cultural Diversity requirement. As individual and national destinies become progressively more interconnected, the ability to survive and succeed is increasingly linked to the development of a more pluralistic, diverse and globally aware populace. By studying the diverse groups of people associated with the New World and focusing on how their intersections have culminated in contemporary practices, students will gain a greater understanding of cultures and groups of people distinct from themselves. Study of each region begins with a short historical overview, a small discussion of music prior to recording technology, and a primary emphasis on recorded music of the Twentieth century. Such early discussions are only to focus on the primary goal of current trends in music and how they are influenced by their predecessors. The majority of the content is based on late twentieth century trends in music.

- This course fulfills the following Core Objectives in Creative Arts (CA)
  - **Critical Thinking:** Students will analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information about musical genres drawn from a variety of sources.
  - **Communication Skills:** They will be able to effectively communicate through class discussions qualities associated with musical examples. Students will also write about such musical relationships in their group projects.
  - **Teamwork:** Students work in groups to consider each other’s interpretations of
their musical selections, consider their relationships to the socio/cultural movements discussed in class, and building a web page that communicates their groups analysis.

- **Social Responsibility**: Students are tested on their understanding of how civic issues are reflected and challenged by performance, including political activism, exile, revolutions, and establishment of cultural identity. This course addresses a wide variety of cultural performance situations (e.g., literature and contexts, social and sacred) each of which considers a different set of behaviors to be appropriate and finds others offensive. Students practice this intercultural competence through performing in class, attending live performances while applying behaviors appropriate to the culture and context at hand, and writing reflections on their performance experiences. The issues of intersecting cultures covered by these discussions, tests, writings, and performances equip student to engage effectively in these regional, national, and global communities.


**eLearning and Email** – All testing and materials will be available on eLearning. You are also expected to check your TAMU email and eLearning at least once a day. Make sure your computer is ready to take the online listening exams by taking the practice listening exam online. I would suggest that you take the practice listening exam before you start every listening exam. It is your responsibility to have a healthy computer when exams are available.

**Grades** – Grading will be administered through tests covering the lectures and listening exams. All testing will be administered on eLearning unless otherwise specified. The mid-term and final will be administered in class. The final exam will only cover material that was presented after the mid-term. DO NOT TAKE ONLINE EXAMS IN GROUPS! THIS IS CONSIDERED CHEATING.

**GRADE SCALE**: A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69, F=0-59

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance Studies Events Reviews</th>
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<tr>
<td>Team Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lecture Quizzes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Listening Exams</td>
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**Attendance**

Attendance is expected for every lecture. The best way to make a great grade in this course is regular attendance.

For those who have university approved absences that you know will occur in advance (i.e. competing in a swim tournament, giving a paper at a national conference), you are required to tell the professor at least one class period in advance or make up exams will not be administered.

If you become ill and are unable to attend class, you must present an official note from your doctor by the next class meeting to be excused from the class. If you will be missing more than one class, please send an e-mail after the first class period that you miss and submit your doctors note at your earliest convenience (by e-mail or in person).

All attendance concerns must comply with rule 7 of the student rules http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07.

**Department of Performance Studies Events** – You are required to attend **TWO** Department of Performance Studies events and write a 300 word synopsis of the event. The allowed events are found at http://perf.tamu.edu/events/. The paper is due within 48 hours of the performance. You must turn in a ticket stub or program to Dr. Rollins for proof. The paper will be submitted online in the “Assessments” section of the eLearning site.

**Team Project** – Students will create a blog (suggested easy to use blog sites: blogger or wordpress). The topic discussed must concern musical movements and their associations with social movements. Contributors will have their own page in the blog.

1. Each member will write a minimum 300-word blog entry on his or her own page (no maximum). Put your name on the article where I can visibly see and associate it to the grade book.

2. Each member needs to have at least two primary sources generated from library research. This means you must quote or paraphrase these sources in your writing. Examples of primary sources are: a book written by a known author, a periodical/journal article, dissertations/theses. Sources that are not primary include: articles where the
author is unknown, and encyclopedia articles (including wikipedia). You need to cite these sources at the bottom of your article in any recognized format (CMS, APA, or MLA)

3. Each member will include at least three embedded media. Youtube or dailymotion are great sources. Any embedded source from anywhere across the internet or from your own personal uploads are fine. Create your own videos or audio if you so choose!

4. The group will make sure their individual contributions work as a whole to the subject matter. This requires group discussions and meetings to achieve a cohesive goal.

Calendar and topics discussed – Online quizzes close at 10:00PM the final day.
Midterm and Final will be in class.

Week 1
T: Overview Lecture: Ch. 1
R: Overview Lecture: Ch. 2

Week 2
T: Overview Lecture Quiz
R: Mexico Lecture: Ch. 3

Week 3
T: Mexico Lecture: Ch. 3 con’t
R: Mexico Lecture: Ch. 3 con’t

Week 4
T: Mexico Lecture Quiz
R: Mexico Listening Quiz

Week 5
T: Spanish Speaking Caribbean Lecture: Ch. 4
R: Spanish Speaking Caribbean Lecture: Ch. 4 con’t

Week 6
T: Spanish Speaking Caribbean Lecture and Listening Quiz
R: English and French Speaking Caribbean Lecture: Ch. 5
Week 7
T: English and French Speaking Caribbean Lecture Quiz
R: English and French Speaking Caribbean Listening Quiz

Week 8
T: Review for Midterm
R: Midterm

Weeks 9-10
T: Brazil Lecture: Ch. 6
R: Brazil Lecture: Ch. 6 con’t

Week 11
T: Group Blog Project Due; Brazil Lecture and Listening Quiz
R: Colombia and Argentina Lecture: Ch. 7–8

Week 12
T: Performance Reviews Due; Colombia and Argentina Lecture Quiz
R: Colombia and Argentina Listening Quiz

Week 13
T: U.S. Music Lecture: Instructor’s notes
R: U.S. Music Lecture: Instructor’s notes con’t

Week 14
T: Performance reviews due; U.S. Music Lecture Quiz
R: U.S. Music Listening Quiz

Finals Week—Final Exam

Copyright Statement
All of the materials that are used in this class are copyrighted. That includes all of the class notes, assignments, tests, and any other materials that I will make available to you throughout the semester. You have the right to print off copies of these materials for your own use during this course, but you do not have the right to copy or distribute any of the materials to others.

Electronic devices in the classroom
Cell phones must be turned off and completely out of sight. If I see a cell phone you will be asked to leave the classroom. Laptops are allowed as long as they are ONLY used for taking notes. Use of a laptop to do anything other than taking notes is very disruptive to other students and, to be blunt, very rude, so do the right thing. Keep earphones out of ears.

**AGGIE HONOR CODE**

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do.”

Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the TAMU community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System. For additional information please visit: http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Cain Hall, Room B118, or call 845-1637. For additional information visit http://disability.tamu.edu.