

## **MUH 6548 section 1E73: Seminar in Caribbean Music (Spring 2016)**

Time: Tuesdays period 4; Thursdays period 3& 4  
Location: Music Building Room 144  
Instructor: Larry Crook  
Phone/Email: (352) 273-3171/lcrook@ufl.edu  
Office: 301 University Auditorium  
Office Hours: W—7<sup>th</sup> Period and by appointment

### **OBJECTIVES/COURSE ORIENTATION**

The course objective is to nurture an understanding and appreciation of the historical, cultural, aesthetic, and social dimensions of music making emanating from the Caribbean. We will focus on vernacular and popular musical traditions of the Caribbean, in the contexts of colonialism and the trans-Atlantic slave trade; independence, nationalist, and revolutionary political movements. We will explore music in relation to cultural processes of creolization and hybridity; migrations and diaspora formations; religious experience; staged folklore; and the impact of media and technology in the development and distribution of Caribbean musical styles. Class periods will comprise lecture/discussions; student-led reports and presentations; seminar-style discussion of assigned readings, listening/viewing of recorded materials; and occasional hands-on demonstrations and sessions.

During the semester we will investigate the musical cultures of the island nation-states in the Caribbean with special attention to Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, and Trinidad & Tobago. Some of the musical traditions we will cover include

- African-inspired religious music mixed with Catholicism and Protestant Christianity (Cuban Santería, Haitian Vodou, Jamaican Rastafarianism)
- Hispanic-inspired song traditions (Cuban Guajiros, Puerto Rican Jíbaros)
- European/African-inspired dance music (danzas, contradanzas, danzón)
- Dominican merengue, bachata
- Haitian mizik rasin
- Jamaican reggae, ska, mento
- Trinidadian steel pan, calypso, chutney
- Cuban rumba, son, charanga, changui
- Salsa and Latin jazz

### **TEXT:**

- Manuel, Peter. 2006. *Caribbean Currents: From Rumba to Reggae*. Revised and Expanded Edition. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Additional reading, listening, and viewing materials will be made available primarily through the course's Canvas E-Learning site.

## **BASIC REQUIREMENTS**

Students are required to attend class regularly and 1) complete the reading, listening, and viewing assignments and come to class ready to participate in seminar-style class discussion; 2) prepare and give presentation reports on specific topics as assigned by the instructor; 3) research and write a 10-15 page term paper or term media project; 4) take two tests (mid-term and final). Regular attendance is required and students who miss class for reasons other than medical emergencies must notify the instructor at least one week prior to the absence. Classes missed must be made up through work assigned by the instructor. Unexcused absences will be detrimental to your final course grade.

## **GRADING**

Grades are based on the following percentages:

Mid-term Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Class Reports/Participation	25%
Term Project	25%
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Total	100%

Grading Scale:

A	95%	C	73%
A-	90%	C-	70%
B+	87%	D+	67%
B	83%	D	63%
B-	80%	D-	60%
C+	77%	E	0-59%

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

For students with disabilities—to request classroom accommodations, contact the Assistant Dean of Students/Director of the Disability Resources Program at P202 Peabody Hall or call 392-1261 (V), 392-3008 (TDD). Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office.

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY/DISHONESTY**

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: *“I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion for the University.”* The instructor of this course fully endorses this statement and will not tolerate academic dishonesty.” See UF guidelines for academic honesty:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/honestybrochure.php>.