

**MUH 7938: Musicology Seminar (sect 1A16)
Ethnomusicology and the Study of Popular Music
Fall 2016**

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Office/Hours: 301 Univ Aud/Mon5&Wed4th period and by appointment

COURSE FOCUS

In this course we will investigate how ethnomusicologists and other musical scholars have conceptualized and analyzed the field of popular music. During the first segment of the semester (four weeks perhaps), we will develop theoretical/intellectual perspectives for understanding the scope and relevance of popular music in both contemporary and historical contexts. We will explore how 1) the concepts of mass culture, distinctions of art, popular, and folk music categories arose; 2) recording and broadcast industries developed, 3) scholarship into popular music emerged, and 4) notions of colonialism, diasporas, and global interconnections condition our understanding of the popular music field.

During the remainder of the semester students and the instructor will identify selected case studies/ethnographies of popular music from various parts of the world for investigation. Each student will be responsible for reporting on specific topics and will develop an individual project (in consultation with the instructor) for a term paper and presentation to the class.

OBJECTIVES

Students will learn

- ❖ Theoretical/analytical approaches to popular music from a variety of intellectual perspectives;
- ❖ About the history of important popular music traditions from around the world;
- ❖ Historical development of popular music in 19th-, 20th-, and 21st-century contexts.

CLASS POLICIES

Class periods will comprise a combination of discussions of assigned materials (readings, viewings, listenings) and individual student reports on assigned/chosen topics and readings. Please show up to class on time and prepared to discuss the assigned reading materials. Your willingness to express your opinions and to critique the ideas

found in the readings is valued in this class. Regular class attendance is required. If you miss more than two class meetings it will result in a lowering of your grade and missed class-work must be made up. 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 are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu> during the last two or three weeks of the semester.

READING/TEXT PURCHASES

There is only one required text that you must purchase for this class: David Brackett's *Interpreting Popular Music*. You can decide if any of the other readings are valuable enough for purchase. It is recommended that you consider purchasing key materials (texts, cd recordings, etc.) associated with your term paper project.

Reading (book chapters, journal articles, etc.), listening, and viewing materials will be listed in handouts given out in class and will be made available via the E-learning Canvas web site for this class.

REQUIREMENTS

Each student must:

- ❖ complete reading and listening assignments and write an evaluative summary/commentary for each week's readings;
- ❖ attend class prepared and willing to participate in seminar discussion based on the readings;
- ❖ Complete a take-home midterm exam
- ❖ prepare and deliver in-class reports on assigned topics during the semester;
- ❖ write two book reviews (3-5 pages each);
- ❖ research and write a 15-20 page term paper.

GRADING

Final Grades will be based on the following percentages:

Midterm exam	20%
Term Paper.....	30%
Book Reviews (2)	20%
Class Participation and reports	20%
Written Commentaries	10%

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%

Information on current UF grading policies and grade points may be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

TERM PAPER

Term paper should be in the range of about 15-20 pages double-spaced and fully formatted. Topic approval by the instructor required. This paper should be based on your own investigations into a specific type of or issue related to popular music linked to ideas and theoretical discussions developed in class. The final paper submission will be due on December 10, 2016 (via email to instructor).

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY

Cheating on exams or using someone else's ideas in a written paper without providing proper recognition and citation of the source (plagiarizing) are serious matters. 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. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing is subject to an automatic E and further disciplinary action.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students requesting classroom accommodations must first contact the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

PRELIMINARY SEMESTER SCHEDULE (subject to revision)

- First 4 or 5 weeks: Theoretical orientation to popular music studies. Weekly readings given in handouts and made available via Canvas (Aug 25, Sep 1, Sep 8, 15, 22)

- September 29: Midterm (take-home due and paper proposal)
- October 6: Book Review 1 due (each student writes and gives a book report to seminar)
- October 13, 20, 27: Student-led readings + instructor assigned readings. Two students per week to determine readings and lead discussions.
- November 3: Book Review 2 due (each student gives book report to seminar)
- November 10: No Class
- November 17: TBA
- December 1: Student Presentations (20 minutes + 10 minute discussion)
- December 10: Term Papers Due by midnight EST.