

# SYLLABUS

MUH 3541 – sect 194E & LAS 3930 – sect 156G

## LATIN AMERICAN MUSIC

FALL 2016, MWF – 6<sup>th</sup> period (12:50 – 1:40 PM) – Grinter Hall – Room # 376

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Office hours: MWF 4<sup>th</sup> period (10:40 – 11:30 AM) and by appointment

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course covers selected musical cultures from Latin America and the Caribbean in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries within their cultural and geographical contexts. Over the semester you will become familiar with the different styles and repertoires of Latin American music such as the bolero, ranchero, marimba de tecomates, bossa-nova, choro, Latin pop, merengue, nueva canción, wayno, bambuco, rumba, salsa, samba, son, bachata, milonga, and others. We will also study the historical background and social functions of these styles, as well as relevant composers, performers, and musical instruments of the region. We will cover a wide variety of geographical/cultural areas, but it will not possible to cover all of the music of Latin America and the Caribbean. We will also engage in the discussion of concepts and properties of musical sounds, as well as, in the classification of musical instruments related to ethnomusicological concepts. This course will make extensive use of audio-visual materials. Class periods will include lectures, discussions, listening and viewing, and potential live demonstrations. Formal musical and anthropological training is not required. You must, however, be willing to use your ears and minds critically in order to understand the material.

### COURSE GOALS

- To fully appreciate Latin American music, its role, and relevance to the understanding of Latin American society.
- To become familiar with the different stages of development of music in different regions of Latin America.
- To acquire a broader, critical, and sensitive understanding of Latin American music.
- To look at various Latin American musical styles and be able to identify and associate them to specific geographical regions.
- To recognize the impact of Latin American music in the development of its people and their political and cultural identity.

### REQUIREMENTS

Each student **must** 1) attend class and participate in the class discussions; 2) complete assigned reading, listening, and viewing; 3) take three exams during the semester, 4) write an eight-ten page research paper. Specific information on the research paper will be provided!

### READING

Textbook (Required)

Schechter, John M. 1999. *Music in Latin American Culture: Regional Traditions*. New York: Schirmer Books. *The CD (Music in Latin American Culture: Regional Traditions)* set to accompany this text **must** be purchased separately.

### **Additional Reading**

Supplemental readings will be assigned from books and journals found in the Music Library and online Jstor (<http://www.jstor.org/>). You must be logged into the University network with your student credentials to download or print articles. Students are also encouraged to consult *The New Grove II Dictionary of Music and Musicians* (ML 100.N48x REFERENCE) and the *Garland Encyclopedia of World Music, Vol. 2* (ML 100 G16 REFERENCE) for entries on individual countries, musical styles, and musicians in Latin America. These sources are also available on line at our AFA Music Library website <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/afa/> (music) and click on the left column “Research Guide by Subjects “Music” for the Oxford Music on Line link, for the New Grove II Dictionary of Music and Musicians, and <http://gnd.alexanderstreet.com/> for the *Garland Encyclopedia of World Music*. Basic reading assignments will be listed in the **Listening and Viewing Assignments** (given in class). Additional reading assignments will be given in class!! Keep in mind that you must be logged with your UF ID or using VPN on your computer when not on Campus to access some of the online readings.

### **LISTENING AND VIEWING**

Basic listening assignments found with your Text Book CD will be listed in the **Listening and Viewing Assignments**. Additional assignments will be made be announced in class and confirmed via e-mail (listserv). All other personal communication must be arranged/made during office hours!

#### Additional Listening and Viewing

Additional CDs, DVDs, and Videos will be selected for use in the class. Most of these materials—and facilities for listening and viewing—are located in the AFA Architecture & Fine Arts Library (second floor of Fine Arts Building A). <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/afa/Index.aspx> Careful and attentive listening is required in class and in the AFA Library (a portion of each exam will include listening).

### **EXAMS**

Each of the exams will include multiple choice, short answer, essay, and identification of listening examples. There are three exams for this course (each will take place during class period). I will give make-up exams only if a student misses the exam due to an excused absence. Excused absences are granted for: **1)** a medical illness confirmed by a written statement from your physician or **2)** a medical emergency in the family confirmed by a written statement from a parent or guardian, **3)** an official university activity confirmed by a written statement from a faculty advisor, or **4)** a religious holiday which you must observe. For excused absences in categories 3 and 4 you must notify me at least two weeks in advance of the absence, and there is no penalty. For reasons other than those listed above, you may confer directly with me (at least two weeks prior to the date of the exam) and I will tell you if you will receive an excused absence. It is your responsibility to be in class to take the exams. Exam and critical dates are:

|                                 |                                      |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Exam 1:                         | <b>September 16</b> (Friday), 2016   |
| Exam 2:                         | <b>October 21</b> (Friday), 2016     |
| Due final paper abstract:       | <b>November 14</b> (Wednesday), 2016 |
| Exam 3 and Turn in Final Paper: | <b>December 7</b> (Wednesday), 2016  |

**RESEARCH PAPER**

A research paper (hard copy and electronic copy in word format) on a selected Latin American musical topic will be due December 7, 2016 after your Exam 3. NO LATE assignments will be accepted. This paper should be a 8-10 page document (Font Size: Times New Roman 12 / Space: double spaced) and must include at least three bibliographic references on scholarly articles or books relevant to your topic (no internet sources or links). I will give you an additional handout detailing the format and including suggestions for paper topics. A typed three-paragraph equivalent to a 250-300 words (1.5 space / Times New Roman with a Title and Your name) abstract/proposal for this paper will be **due November 16** (Wednesday).

**ATTENDANCE**

Regular attendance is absolutely required (much of the information on the tests comes directly from class lectures and discussed reading). Three unexcused absences (except exam days) are allowed during the semester. Each additional unexcused absence will result in a lowering of your overall point total by five points per absence. (See below for an explanation of point tabulation). Attendance will be checked on a daily basis beginning the second day of classes (August 24, Wednesday).

**GRADING**

Grades are assigned according to the total number of points you accumulate during the semester.

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Exam 1.....                                | 100 points        |
| Exam 2.....                                | 100 points        |
| Exam 3.....                                | 100 points        |
| Class Attendance / Participation (quizzes) | 50 points         |
| Research Paper.....                        | 150 points        |
| <b>Total.....</b>                          | <b>500 points</b> |

This yields a total 500 points. Grades will be assigned as follows:

The grade scale for this course is as follows:

|           |           |         |           |                 |              |
|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| <b>A</b>  | (446-500) | 93-100% | <b>C</b>  | (346-365)       | 73-76%       |
| <b>A-</b> | (431-445) | 90-93%  | <b>C-</b> | (331-345)       | 70-72%       |
| <b>B+</b> | (416-430) | 87-89%  | <b>D</b>  | (284-330)       | 65-69%       |
| <b>B</b>  | (396-415) | 83-86%  | <b>E</b>  | (283 and below) | 64% or below |
| <b>B-</b> | (381-395) | 80-82%  |           |                 |              |
| <b>C+</b> | (366-380) | 77-79%  |           |                 |              |

\*All Grade issues must be addressed within 72 hours

**SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY**

Cheating on exams and using someone else's ideas in a written paper without providing proper recognition 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.*” <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/> 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. Don't risk it!

## HINTS FOR STUDENTS

Attend classes regularly, read the assignments, ask questions, and take copious notes. Re-read your notes to make sure you understand them and underline important names and terms (If you take notes on one side of the page only you can later use the backside to define the terms and names you underline). When reading, listening, and viewing required assignments, take notes to help you remember important points and salient musical features. Jot down information from the CD liner notes or jacket cover of recordings where appropriate. Create a class notebook (loose-leaf is best) in which you keep the syllabus and all handouts given out in class together with your notes from the lectures and the reading, listening, and viewing assignments. This will help you organize information and study for tests more efficiently. Be sure to refer to the syllabus for assignments and other information. Become familiar with the resources of the Music Library and use the listening facilities to investigate recordings of music you like. Make suggestions for new CDs and other audio recordings not available in the library (there are forms available at the library desk).

## COMPLETING THE READING, VIEWING, AND LISTENING ASSIGNMENTS

Under each topic in the **Listening and Viewing Assignments** are listed required. Most of the non-textbook readings come from journals and are available online from **Jstor**. Additional reading assignments will be sent on specific topics or issues throughout the semester and will be able to be downloaded in adobe (.pdf) and be saved on your computer.

## NOTE

During the semester short quizzes on the required reading materials will be conducted at the beginning of the class period. I have created a listserv through the University Lists that sends e-mail to all students registered with MUH 3541 & LAS 3930 (Latin American Music). You should check your UF e-mails ONLY regularly for updates or links to the specific readings. For saving and printing privileges on the reading materials and accessing JStor from outside Campus, make sure that you are logged with the University system through VPN.

Listening and viewing assignments reading assignments for each topic will be given on separate handouts and will be available on reserve in the music library. To complete a listening or video viewing assignment you must leave your Student I.D. card at the front desk when you check out a CD, DVD, or video. You will be given a pair of headphones at the desk. Please be careful with the recordings and the sound/video equipment.

\*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). <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

**!!Please turn off cell phones prior to entering class. The use of electronic devices other than your laptop (ONLY for taking notes) is prohibited.  
Texting is strictly prohibited!!!!**