

MUH 6548 (section 004G): Seminar in Caribbean Music (Spring 2018)

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 (stage right Stairs to top0
Office Hours: W—5th Period and by appointment

OBJECTIVES/COURSE ORIENTATION

This course nurtures an understanding and appreciation for the historical, cultural, aesthetic, and social dimensions of music from the Caribbean. We will focus on vernacular and popular musical traditions linked to the Caribbean within the contexts of colonialism, the trans-Atlantic slave trade; independence/nationalist movements, and the transnational flows of the contemporary era. We will explore music in relation to cultural processes of creolization and hybridity; migration and diaspora formation; religious and spiritual experiences; 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 selected assigned readings, listening/viewing of recorded materials; and occasional hands-on demonstrations and sessions.

During the semester we will investigate the musical cultures of several island nation-states in the Caribbean with special attention to Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, and Trinidad & Tobago. We will also cover the impact of Caribbean music in transnational contexts (especially in New York and Florida) 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
- Puerto Rican reggaeton
- Jamaican reggae, ska, mento, dancehall
- Trinidadian steel pan, calypso, soca, tassa drumming
- Cuban rumba, son, charanga, mambo
- 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 discussions; 2) prepare and present reports on specific topics as assigned by the instructor; 3) research, produce, and present a term 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%
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>.