

**MUH 3541**– Class Number: 18091 Section REG1 & **LAS 3930** – Class Number: 21183 Section 1B51  
**LATIN AMERICAN MUSIC SYLLABUS**

**FALL 2020**, MWF – 5<sup>th</sup> period (11:45 AM – 12:35 PM) –ZOOM ONLINE. A specific link that you logged in will be provided. You **must** have your audio and video on during the class lectures  
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Office hours: MWF - 7<sup>th</sup> period (1:55 – 2:45 PM) and by appointment on ZOOM or Campus

### **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 and relevant composers, performers, and musical instruments of the region. We will cover a wide variety of geographical/cultural areas, but it will not be possible to include all 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 use audio-visual materials and handouts that I will send by e-mail (always your UF e-mail or post it on CANVAS). Class periods will include lectures, presentations, listening and viewing, and discussions like in a live environment. Formal musical and anthropological training are not required. You must, however, be willing to use your ears and minds critically 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 (please give yourself and be ready at least five minutes prior class began) and participate in the class discussions when asked; 2) complete assigned reading, listening, and viewing; 3) take three exams during the semester, 4) present a power point research presentation. Specific information on your presentation will be discussed during the semester!

### **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*). Also, available on Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Music-Latin-American-Culture->

[Traditions/dp/0495317403](https://www.jstor.org/stable/4495317403) I will provide the AUDIO class samples on Dropbox from the Textbook for listening and have videos for viewing. Some viewing might happen during our class period as needed.

### **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 or have access to VPN (software available at UF by CISCO to login when you are off Campus) 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://gln.d.alexanderstreet.com/> for the *Garland Encyclopedia of World Music*. Basic reading assignments will be listed in the **Listening and Viewing Assignments** (provided later). Additional reading assignments will be given as needed!!

### **LISTENING AND VIEWING**

Basic listening assignments found with your Text Book CD will be listed in the **Listening and Viewing Assignments and available on DROPBOX**. Additional assignments will be announced in class and confirmed via e-mail (listserv). All other personal communication must be arranged/made during office hours! If you have a class during office hours we can discuss the best way for us to communicate by phone or ZOOM for 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 can also be found at 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 for this course and available to you (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 ALWAYS be available during our class time in class to take the exams. Exam and critical dates are:

<b>Exam 1:</b>	<b>September 25</b> (Friday), 2020
<b>Exam 2:</b>	<b>October 23</b> (Friday), 2020

**Exam 3:** **November 23 (Monday), 2020**  
**Final Research Presentation**  
**Presentation I** (November 30), **Presentation II** (December 2),  
**Presentation III** (December 4), **Presentation IV** (December 7), **Presentation V** (December 9)

**RESEARCH PRESENTATION**

A final research presentation (PowerPoint or Keynote) will take place on the announced schedule above on a previously discussed Latin American musical topic. You must upload on Dropbox your presentation for your final evaluation. The presentation should reflect your ability to incorporate all concepts discussed in class and reflex your ability to incorporate musical concepts, musical styles, social issues, historical events, political issues, and other important issues in Latin America. The presentation will include a group of students (two or more) with common regional interest in Latin America and the Caribbean. The presentation must include bibliographic references and other pertinent information where the content of the presentation was found. Textbooks and other academic resources are preferred and better evaluation will be given to presentation with bibliographic references on scholarly articles or books relevant to your topic.

I will give you an additional handout detailing the format and including suggestions for presentation 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 your presentation will be **due November 13** (Friday).

**ATTENDANCE**

Regular attendance in our ZOOM meetings 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 third dal of classes (September 4, Friday).

**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%			

C+ (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 listening and look at your Textbook to confirm the songs, author, region, style, and other regional information about your listening. Create a class notebook (digital or otherwise) where 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 Online Music Library. Make suggestions for new CDs and other audio recordings not available in the library that you think relevant for this course.

## COMPLETING THE READING, VIEWING, AND LISTENING ASSIGNMENTS

Under each topic in the **Listening and Viewing Assignments** are listed required materials. 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 (about 10 minutes) on the required reading materials will be conducted at the beginning of the class period. For other communications, I will create a listserv through the University Lists that sends an e-mail to all students registered with MUH 3541 & LAS 3930 (Latin American Music). UF e-mails ONLY for communications, 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 a VPN.

\*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/>