

FALL 2021

MUN 1xxx - section TBA

World Music Ensemble – African Popular Music Ensemble

Tuesdays (7:20 PM-9:10 PM) at the School of Music

Dr. Sarah Politz, spolitz@ufl.edu

Office: Yon Hall 435

Office hours: TBA

Credits: 1.0 credit hours

The African Popular Music Ensemble will specialize in the popular music of the African continent, with a special focus on Afrobeat, highlife, soukous, African jazz, and the brass band traditions of Africa and the diaspora. Together we will listen to, perform, and arrange music from the works of Fela Kuti (Nigeria), Salif Keita (Mali), Hugh Masekela, Abdullah Ibrahim, Miriam Makeba (South Africa), Mulatu Astatke (Ethiopia), and the Gangbe Brass Band of Benin. Instrumentation will vary based on personnel each semester, and will typically include a rhythm section, horn section, and vocal soloists. The ensemble will also draw on the participation of faculty performers, as well as guest artists specializing in African popular music from the community and beyond. These collaborations will contribute to the diversity of musical and cultural experiences related to Africa that are available to students throughout the semester.

Course Objectives

- The African Popular Music Ensemble is dedicated to learning African culture through musical performance.
- After completion of this course, students will be able to perform in a variety of African popular music styles on their instrument. These skills will be developed through a combination of listening to recordings, developing skills in listening and blending within the ensemble, and individual study and practice outside of rehearsals.
- Students who wish to develop their skills in improvisation will have many opportunities to do so. Students who complete this course will gain a basic knowledge of the melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic structures underlying improvisation in these styles. They will also gain experience in learning ensemble parts by ear and from recordings.
- After completing the course, students will also be able to discuss the connections between African popular music and other aspects of African culture, such as politics, aesthetics, religion, language, decolonization, and cultural exchange. This understanding will be developed through the discussion of listening assignments, both in rehearsal and outside of class, including podcasts and radio programs as well as music recordings.

Preliminary Performance Schedule

The following are two preliminary possibilities for performance:

November – World Music Showcase, Bo Diddley Plaza

December – Concert in MUB 101

Course Requirements

Members are expected to learn and practice their parts and come to rehearsals prepared to perform (in some cases written music will be distributed, in other cases you will be expected to learn your part aurally). Everyone is expected to help set up and strike equipment used during rehearsals. This means coming ten minutes prior to rehearsal time you are assigned, and staying ten minutes after.

Disabilities

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Assessment/Grading

Your grade in this course will be based on your attendance, participation, and preparation, in keeping with UF's grading policies (available [here](#)).

Grading will be apportioned as follows:

Attendance and participation at rehearsals (20%)

Attendance and participation at concerts (20%)

Preparation in rehearsals, including any assigned listening or reading (40%)

Preparation in concerts (20%)

Participation and attendance will be evaluated according to the following rubric.

A: Attendance at all or all but one rehearsal and both concerts

Demonstrated ability to play assigned parts at a high level based on rehearsal and practice out of class

B: Attendance at all but 2-3 rehearsals and both concerts

Demonstrated ability to play assigned parts proficiently based on rehearsal and practice out of class

C: Attendance at all but 4-5 rehearsals and one concert with no makeup

Demonstrated ability to play assigned parts semi-proficiently based on rehearsal and practice out of class

D: Attendance at all but 6-7 rehearsals and zero concerts with no makeup

Little demonstrated ability to play assigned parts based on rehearsal and practice outside of class

F: More than 7 missed rehearsals and two missed concerts with no makeup

No demonstrated ability to play assigned parts based on rehearsal and practice outside of class

If you attend all of the rehearsals and performances, and prepare for rehearsal by listening and practicing, showing consistent improvement, you will receive an A for the course. You may miss one rehearsal without it negatively impacting your grade, but each subsequent, unexcused absence will result in a 3-point deduction from your semester grade (i.e. 95 to 92, or A to A-). In the case that you cannot avoid missing a performance, you will be required to complete a make-up assignment, or be penalized by one full letter grade (i.e. A- to B-, or B to C).

A	94.00-100.00		C	74.00-76.99
A-	90.00-93.99		C-	70.00-73.99
B+	87.00-89.99		D+	67.00-69.99
B	84.00-86.99		D	64.00-66.99
B-	80.00-83.99		D-	60.00-63.99
C+	77.00-79.99		E	< 60.00

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies. [Click here to read the university attendance policies.](#)

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner.](#) Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. [Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here.](#)

COVID-19 Policies

We will have face-to-face instructional sessions to accomplish the student learning objectives of this course. In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

- You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times (except when playing a wind instrument or singing) during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.
- This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing (6 feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks or stations.
- Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.

- Follow your instructor's guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms ([Click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus](#)), please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. [Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms](#).
- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. [Find more information in the university attendance policies](#).

Sample Schedule

August 24

Organizational meeting

August 31

Highlife music rehearsal – listenings from E.T. Mensah, Koonimo

September 7

Highlife music rehearsal

September 14

Afrobeat music rehearsal – listenings from Fela Kuti, Antibalas, Gangbe Brass

Band

(continue Highlife rehearsal)

September 21

Afrobeat music rehearsal
(continue Highlife rehearsal)

September 28

Salif Keita rehearsal – listenings from Salif Keita, Toumani Diabate
(continue Afrobeat and Highlife rehearsal)

October 5

Salif Keita rehearsal
(continue Afrobeat and Highlife rehearsal)

October 12

Mbaqanga/South African rehearsal – listenings from Miriam Makeba, Abdullah Ibrahim, Hugh Masekela
(continue Salif Keita, Afrobeat, and Highlife rehearsal)

October 19

Mbaqanga/South African rehearsal

(continue Salif Keita, Afrobeat, and Highlife rehearsal)

October 26

Ethio-jazz rehearsal – listenings from Mulatu Astatke
(continue South African, Salif Keita, Afrobeat, and Highlife rehearsal)

November 2

Ethio-jazz rehearsal
(continue South African, Salif Keita, Afrobeat, and Highlife rehearsal)

November 9

Continue rehearsal of all repertoire

November 16

Continue rehearsal of all repertoire

World Music Showcase (tentatively): November 19

November 30

Continue rehearsal of all repertoire

Concert in MUB 101 (tentatively): December 4

December 7

Debrief, watch concert videos

Musical Materials

Materials for performance in the African Popular Music Ensemble will be drawn from works such as:

Fela Kuti

Alagbon Close
*Expensive Sh*t*
Zombie
Sorrow Tears and Blood
Shuffling and Smiling
Black President
Lady
Teacher Don't Teach Me Nonsense

Hugh Masekela

Black to the Future
Still Grazing

Miriam Makeba

Homeland

Abdullah Ibrahim

Capetown Fringe

African Space Program
African Marketplace
Water from an Ancient Well
Cape Town Revisited

Salif Keita

Soro
Amen
Moffou
La Difference

Mulatu Astatke

Ethiopiques

Gangbe Brass Band

Togbe
Whendo
Assiko
Go Slow to Lagos

Rebirth Brass Band (New Orleans)

Feel Like Funkin' It Up
Do Whatcha Wanna
Take It To the Street

Antibalas (Brooklyn)

Liberation Afrobeat
Where the Gods Are In Peace

Underground System (Brooklyn)

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

University Police Department: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#)

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.](#)