

MUH 3541/LAS3930 LATIN AMERICAN MUSIC
Class Number: 16284 Section REG1 & Class Number: 28700 Section 4600
Fall 2022

MWF – 5th period (11:45 AM – 12:35 PM) MUB 146

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Office hours: Wednesdays 10:30-11:30am Yon Hall Room 436 or by Zoom appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course covers selected musical cultures from Latin America and the Caribbean in the 20th and 21st centuries within their cultural and geographical contexts. Over the semester you will become familiar with the different styles and repertoires of Latin American and Caribbean 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 the relevant composers, performers, and musical instruments of the regions. We will also engage in the discussion of socio-cultural concepts and musical properties relating to ethnomusicology. This course will rely upon audio-visual resources and supplemental materials that will be available on Canvas. Formal musical and anthropological training are not required for this course. You will, however, be invited to use your skills and experiences with music to critically process and apply the material.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Develop appreciation for Latin American and Caribbean music, and its role and relevance to Latin American and Caribbean cultures and society.
- Become familiar with the historical development of music in different regions of Latin America and the Caribbean
- Be able to discuss socio-cultural topics within Latin America and the Caribbean in connection with music

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Acquire a broader, critical, and sensitive understanding of Latin American and Caribbean music
- Be able to identify Latin American and Caribbean musical styles and associate them to specific geographical regions
- Recognize the impact of Latin American and Caribbean music on the development of political and cultural identity
- Be able to think critically about Latin American and Caribbean musics and how these musics are situated regionally and globally, including within communities in the United States

REQUIREMENTS

- Attend all classes - unless excused - and be an active participant in class discussions
- Complete the assigned readings, listenings, and/or viewings
- Take three quizzes during the semester and three exams
- Complete 10 discussion posts over the course of the semester
- Complete a final creative project at the end of the semester

COURSE MATERIALS

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*).

Articles

Additional readings for the semester will be provided on Canvas and/or through the UF Library Online. To access materials through UF Library Online off-campus, you must be logged into the University network VPN with your student login.

Additional Resources

Throughout the semester, you will submit various writing assignments that may require the use of additional scholarly works. These online resources (accessible through the UF Library) may be useful in finding supplemental information for your work:

- JSTOR
- RILM abstracts of music literature
- AFA Library Research guides
- NAXOS Music Library – for access to recordings

LISTENING AND VIEWING

Students are expected to learn and become familiar with various audio/visual examples of Latin American and Caribbean musics. These examples will source either from the textbook or through a provided link. Required audio/visual materials will be available under the “Modules” tab on Canvas and/or accessible through the UF Library. A selection of the examples discussed in class will be asked about in the listening portion of quizzes.

EXAMS

There will be 3 exams for this course. Each of the exams will include multiple choice, short answer, essay, and/or identification of listening examples. All exams will be taken on Canvas outside of class on a personal or school device. Students may take the quiz at any time on the exam day. *Be sure to plan ahead to guarantee access to a device for each exam! If a student has difficulty accessing a device, be sure to communicate this to me as soon as possible in order to organize accommodations.

*Make-up exams and quizzes will only be allowed for excused absences. Per university policy, excused absences include those for: 1) a medical illness confirmed by a written statement from your physician, 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, 4) a religious holiday which you must observe, or 5) military obligations. For excused absences in categories 3 and 4 you must notify the instructor at least one week in advance of the absence.

LISTENING QUIZZES

Students will complete three listening quizzes throughout the semester. Listening quizzes will be conducted IN CLASS but completed on Canvas. Students should plan to come to class with a device to take the quiz (a paper format will be available if students are not able to do so). Students will receive a list of listening examples and/or music videos to study at least two classes prior to the exam. During the exam, I will play or show an example, and students will be asked to answer questions about the music examples including elements such as instruments, performers, performance contexts, and socio-cultural meanings of the music. (We will go over examples of this format in class prior to the first quiz.) The listening examples on a quiz could also be on the listening portion of the exam. The above absence policy also applies to making up missed quizzes.

CREATIVE PROJECT

At the end of the semester, students will submit a creative project. This creative project requires students to either produce: a 2min+ video of either a dance or music performance, or create a tangible artistic work of some kind, that is accompanied by a 2-3pg paper explaining your creative process and project purpose. Each project (regardless of format) will also include a corresponding 5-10min in-class presentation. Each project should centralize music from a music genre discussed throughout the semester. The project should also reflect a specific socio-cultural topic as the undercurrent of the production. Students will show their projects in-class during the last week of the semester, and partner this with a 5-10min presentation discussing their creative process, themes meant to be present in the work, as well as the “why’s” behind their choice of music/dance. This project will be discussed consistently throughout the semester and students will be provided with various examples before producing their own project.

DISCUSSION POSTS

Each Thursday [except on exam weeks], students will post a discussion assignment of 250-350 words by 11:59pm. The discussion posts will focus on a specific aspect of the week’s topics and provide students the opportunity to think critically and expound upon various cultural and musical topics within Latin America and the Caribbean. Students will be expected to read through their fellow classmates’ posts before class on Fridays, as the responses will be incorporated into the class discussion. All discussion posts will be submitted on Canvas under the “Discussions” tab. Students will complete a total of 10 discussion posts over the course of the semester. See the “Discussion Post Guidelines” document under “Files” on Canvas for detailed writing expectations.

ATTENDANCE

Class attendance is required. Two unexcused absences are allowed during the semester. Each additional unexcused absence will result in a grade penalty of 5 points out of your participation score. [Communication really is key here – if you know you will be late or will miss a class, let me know ASAP – the earlier the better.] Requirements for class attendance and make-up quizzes, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies. *The instructor maintains the right to determine whether work may be made up for credit or not due to unexcused absences on a case-by-case basis. Any work missed for a university-approved excused absence can be made up without any grade penalties.

PARTICIPATION AND DANCE WORKSHOPS

Students are expected to come to class having read, listened to, and/or watched the required materials for the class. Students will engage with the instructor and one another to investigate and explore the topics. Further, students will often be invited to play instruments or dance during class as a way to learn about particular musics in a participatory manner. A student's involvement in the class discussions and activities is an important aspect of the overall learning process for this course. *If a student has a physical or otherwise personal reason that may keep that student from being able to dance or engage in music-making activity, this is no problem, but please come talk with me at the start of the semester so we can make any necessary arrangements that will allow you to be involved!

IMPORTANT DATES

Sept 5 – Labor Day, *no class
 Nov 11 – Veterans Day, *no class
 Nov 21 – Drop/withdraw deadline
 Dec 9 – Reading Day
 Dec 13 – Final Exam

GRADING

Grades can be calculated based on the total number of points that you accumulate during the semester out of 500 points total.

Listening Quizzes – 30 points (3 at 10)
 Exams – 150 points (3 at 50)
 Discussion Posts – 100 points (10 at 10)
 Creative Project – 150 points
 Participation – 70 points

A 93-100%
 A- 90-92%
 B+ 87-89%
 B 83-86%
 B- 80-82%
 C+ 77-79%
 C 73-76%
 C- 70-72%
 D 65-69%
 E 64% or Below

[*If you have a question about a grade, talk to me about it! And do this promptly - if you wait until the end of the semester, the solutions become limited.] Information on UF grading policy can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/#gradestext>

COMMUNICATION

Email is the best way to stay in contact with me! I do my best to respond to emails within 48hrs. If I do not respond to you within that time frame, please send another email or talk to me about it in class. Additionally, if you would like to set up a meeting, you can attend my office hour and/or request a meeting through Zoom.

*This syllabus and course assignments are subject to change as the instructor sees fit. Any changes will be announced in class and confirmed through email. PLEASE make sure that you have your Canvas announcements set to also come into your UF email account so you do not miss any important information.

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY

Cheating on exams and using someone else's ideas in a written paper without providing proper recognition of the source is plagiarism. 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/>. Further, UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Click here to read the Conduct Code. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor for this class. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated – anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing is subject to an automatic E and further disciplinary action. If you are unsure of how to cite something correctly, just ask!

COURSE EVALUATION POLICY

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <http://gatorevals.aaufl.edu/students/>. 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 <http://ufl/bluera.com/url/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <http://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>

RESOURCES

*Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect 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. Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center:

<https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>

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.

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.

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.

COVID-19 PRACTICES

In response to COVID-19, the following practices are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

* You are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated. Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best

practices like frequent hand washing. Following these practices is our responsibility as Gators.

- * 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.

- * Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom.

- * If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu<<mailto:covid@shcc.ufl.edu>>) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website<<https://click.info.gator360.ufl.edu/?qs=8f0d5e01a3f7385148f144e2089093522a358a8d85cb9db73c31675d3c5e5c0d27748d40c212f544822551342f1912ea5b4f2b890d5952e8>> for more information.

- * 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.

- * If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.

- * Continue to regularly visit coronavirus.UFHealth.org and coronavirus.ufl.edu for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.

*If [MUH3541/LAS3930](#) is required to move from in-person to online instruction through Zoom: students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your image, video, or voice recorded, please speak with the professor about your concerns. You also have the option of using the chat function to participate. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

COURSE SCHEDULE

*A more detailed weekly schedule is available on Canvas under the “Assignments” tab

1] Week 1 – Musical characteristics and ethnomusicology

2] Week 2 – Mexico

3] Week 3 – Mexico cont.

4] Week 4 – Caribbean: Trinidad and Haiti

[Listening Quiz 1](#)

5] Week 5 – Caribbean: Dominican Republic

*Bachata Dance Workshop

6] Week 6 – Caribbean: Cuba

7] Week 7 – Caribbean: Puerto Rico

*Salsa Dance Workshop

[Exam 1: Mexico and the Caribbean](#)

8] Week 8 – Central America: Nicaragua and Guatemala

9] Week 9 – Brazil

[Listening Quiz 2](#)

10] Week 10 – Brazil

*Samba Dance Workshop

11] Week 11 – Argentina

*Tango Dance Workshop

[Exam 2: Central America, Brazil, and Argentina](#)

12] Week 12 – Peru

13] Week 13 – Colombia

14] Week 14 – Colombia cont.

*Cumbia Dance Workshop

[Listening Quiz 3](#)

15] Week 15 – Chile and Peru

16] Week 16 – Creative Projects

Final's Week – [Exam 3: Peru, Colombia, Chile, and Peru](#)