

MUSC 2733 Introduction to Western and World Music
Midwestern State University
Fall 2025

Instructor: Dr. Amy Thiemann

Phone: 402-660-9058

Credit Hours: 3

Office Hours: See schedule posted outside 117I

Email: amy.thiemann@msutexas.edu

Class Time: Tues.-Thurs 9:30-10:50am

Location: Fain Fine Arts Center: C117C

Prerequisites: None

Required Text:

Kaufman Shelemay, Kay. *Soundscapes: Exploring Music in a Changing World*, 3rd ed. Ebook
W.W. Norton, 2015

Course Description:

Introduction to Western and World Music History is a course designed to familiarize you with music in its numerous purposes and guises in a variety of settings, most specifically cultural, historical, and functional. You will develop an understanding of the music making (creation and performance) of others in diverse cultures. Listening, lectures, readings, and experiencing performances are vital components of this course.

D2L will be used extensively for posting syllabi, course communication, course schedule, attendance, and the gradebook. You should regularly check D2L and the email hosted via D2L for important course information.

Student Learning Outcomes:

The student who passes this series of courses will be able to:

- Identify, recognize, and describe general stylistic characteristics of music using accepted musical terminology.
- Accurately place a musical work within an historical, cultural, or stylistic context.
- Distinguish similarities and differences in musical characteristics among art, folk, and world music traditions.
- Understand and categorize how music functions in different historical cultures from antiquity to the present.
- Understand and appreciate the functions of music in society as cultural, religious, ceremonial, inspirational, and recreational.
- Demonstrate teamwork by participation in research presentations.
- Attend and meaningfully critique a classical music concert.

Grading:

Assessment:	# of Assessments	Percentage of Final Grade
Assignments	4	20
Exams	3	30
Chapter Quizzes	10	10
Listening Exercises	4	25
Research Project/Presentation	1	10
Attendance/Participation	--	5
Total		100

- Grading scale is: **A** (90-100%), **B** (80-89%), **C** (70-79%), **D** (60-69%), **F** (0-59%)

Assignment Descriptions:

Exams: There will be 3 exams throughout the semester

- Each exam will be comprised of multiple choice, listening, and written portions.
- Exams may include essay questions in which the student must demonstrate an ability to think critically about musical compositions by forming value judgements and then expressing and defending those judgements in concise writing.
- There may be cumulative elements from exam to exam.

Reflection Assignments: There will be 4 assignments throughout the semester

- Assignments will focus on various subjects/skills related to the course materials.
- Students will be assigned an article/blog/podcast/video/concert to read/listen to/watch
- Updated and detailed information will be posted on D2L
- All assignments are to be written in Word, with Times New Roman or Calibri 12-point font, double-spaced, your personal reflections and in your own words.
- Each reflection must be 300-400 words, with proper citation techniques and bibliography entries provided (such as Chicago style or MLA style) as necessary.
- All assignments are due at 11:59pm on the day they are listed in the schedule below. All assignments can be completed and submitted early. Late assignments will be accepted at the discretion of the instructor.

Listening Exercises: There will be 4 listening exercises throughout the semester.

- These will be based on the assigned listening examples and accompanying class materials.
- All listening exercises will occur in class.
- If you skip class and miss a quiz or graded exercise, it cannot be made up. If you miss class due to a sanctioned university activity or illness, you can make it up if you: a) call/email before class and b) present written documentation when you return to class.

Research Project/Presentation:

- You will be working in a team of four or five to produce a 15-minute presentation on the traditional music of a chosen country or part of the world.
- These presentations will occur during our final exam time (see schedule).
- You will be responsible for a comprehensive presentation on the characteristics of the chosen countries' traditional folk music through audio/video examples (other than the ones supplied within the course), its traditional instruments and their techniques.
- Include the different functional roles of the country's traditional music, along with its connection to any other art form.
- Is this country's traditional music influenced other genres of Western Music (Classical, Jazz, Pop, Rock, etc.)
- Introduce the basic musical elements and characteristics of your chosen country's traditional music (melody, rhythm, harmony, texture, form, structure, etc.)
- Talk about its connection to other traditional world music in the region (similarities and differences)
- Discuss in what way and where these musical traditions have been preserved.
- Make your presentation creative and interesting. Create a PowerPoint (or similar) presentation with videos, pictures and/or other graphics. Provide handouts for the class.
- Use your own words. No plagiarism during the presentation, please.
- Rehearse your presentation as a group and make sure that you are roughly within the 15-minute time limit.
- There will be an aggregate group grade and individual grades.
- All written portions and accompanying materials of this project are due in the D2L Dropbox by the beginning of our meeting time during Finals Week.

Chapter Quizzes: There will be 10 Chapter quizzes throughout the semester

- Quizzes are taken through the textbook in the "Check for Understanding" portions or each chapter.
- Each Chapter Quiz must be completed by the first day of the following chapter. See schedule for further information.

Attendance:

- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class meeting. Lectures go hand-in-hand with assignments and will expand your understanding of the historical and cultural contexts of music.
- Students who are more than 20 minutes late for class will be counted as absent. You have a grace period of three class absences, after which each absence lowers your grade by one letter. Upon your third absence, an Attendance Referral will be sent to the Dean of Students. After your fifth absence, an Academic Referral will be sent to the Advising Office.
- The instructor may drop a student any time during the semester for more than seven absences, for consistently failing to meet class requirements, or for disruptive conduct.

- **If you skip class and miss a quiz or graded exercise, it cannot be made up. If you miss class due to sanctioned university activity or illness, you can make it up if you: a) call/email before class and b) present written documentation when you return to class.**

Communication: All email communication should include MUSC 2733 in the subject heading. This will ensure that your email is addressed quickly. Professional emails are expected. Include a greeting, closing, proper punctuation, capitalization, and full sentences.

General Classroom Expectations: In order to provide a respectful and equal learning environment for everyone, the following policies are necessary to limit distractions:

- Be punctual. Arrive early for class. If arriving a few minutes late, do so quickly and quietly.
- No cell phone use and/or texting. Please turn off all portable electronic devices. If you use a cell phone during class time you will be asked to leave and will be counted as absent for that day.
- Do not talk during lectures, listening, and video presentations.
- If you need to leave early, please notify the instructor prior to class.
- Do not pack up materials until the class has formally ended.
- Water is permitted in the classroom. Other beverages and food are not permitted.
- Treat class members, instructors, and guest lecturers with respect and dignity.

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
8/26	Course Overview and Syllabus Introduction	Syllabus	
8/28-9/4	Chapter 1: Sound The Materials of Music	Chapter 1	
9/9-9/16	Chapter 2: Setting The Story of the Local Musics	Chapter 2	Chapter 1 Quiz Due 9/9
9/18-9/25	Chapter 3: Significance Music's Meaning in Everyday Life Listening Exercise 1: 9/25	Chapter 3	Chapter 2 Quiz Due 9/18 Reflection 1 Due 9/18
9/30	Exam 1		Chapter 3 Quiz Due 9/30
10/2-10/7	Chapter 4: Music and Migration	Chapter 4	Reflection 2 Due 10/7
10/9-10/14	Chapter 5: Music and Memory	Chapter 5	Chapter 4 Quiz Due 10/9
10/16-10/21	Chapter 6: Music, Mobility and the Global Experience	Chapter 6	Chapter 5 Quiz Due 10/16
10/23-10/28	Chapter 7: Music and Dance Listening Exercise 2: 10/28	Chapter 7	Chapter 6 Quiz Due 10/23 Reflection 3 Due 10/23
10/30	Exam 2		Chapter 7 Quiz Due 10/30
11/4	Chapter 8: Music and Ritual	Chapter 8	
11/6-11/11	Chapter 9: Music and Politics Listening Exercise 3 11/11	Chapter 9	Chapter 8 Quiz Due 11/11
11/13-11/18	Chapter 10: Music and Identity	Chapter 10	Chapter 9 Quiz Due 11/13
11/20-12/2	European Classical Music		Chapter 10 Quiz Due 11/20 Reflection 4 Due 11/25
12/4	Exam 3		
12/9	Presentations During Final Exam Time (8-10am)		

OFFICE OF DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS: In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

PRIVACY STATEMENT: Federal privacy law prohibits the instructor from releasing information about students to certain parties outside of the university without the signed consent of the student. Thus, in almost all cases the professor will not discuss students' academic progress or other matters with their parents. Please do not have them call. Regardless of these important legal considerations, the professors' general policy is to communicate with the students, not their parents, even when a student has signed a consent form. College students are adults and are expected to behave accordingly.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Plagiarism is (1) the use of source material of other persons (either published or unpublished, including the Internet) without following the accepted techniques of giving credit or (2) the submission for credit of work not of the individuals to whom credit is given. If a student in the class is caught plagiarizing, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken. The Student Creed developed and adopted by the MSU Student Government reinforces the discouragement of plagiarism and other unethical behaviors. The first statement of the Creed reads, "As an MSU student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else to do so." Plagiarism is lying, cheating, and stealing.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) USE POLICY FOR MUSC 2733: You are permitted to use artificial intelligence (AI) tools to assist you in gathering information and brainstorming ideas but you may not copy and paste information directly from the AI tool and present it as your own without citation **in essays, listening quizzes, and the group research project only**. You are responsible for the information you submit based on an AI query and for assuring that it does not contain misinformation or unethical content and that it does not violate intellectual property laws. You are expected to include a disclosure statement at the end of your assignment describing which AI tool you used and how you used it. For example, "Artificial Intelligence (cite which one) was used to draft about 50% of this paper and to provide revision assistance. AI-produced content was edited for accuracy and style." Your use of AI tools must be properly documented and cited for academic integrity.

MOFFETT LIBRARY: Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this Moffett Library webpage to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

INCLEMENT WEATHER: In the event the university is closed, all classes will be canceled, and assigned material/exams/quizzes, etc. will be postponed to the following scheduled class meeting.

CELLPHONES AND OTHER RECORDING DEVICES POLICY: The use of cell phones and other recording or electronic devices is strictly prohibited during class. The instructor may direct, from time to time, on the

possible use of cell phones for legitimate class reasons. Recording the class is prohibited, unless it is part of a reasonable accommodation under ADA, or by obtaining written consent by the instructor.

CAMPUS CARRY: Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

ACTIVE SHOOTER: The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor