

SCHOOL OF FINE ART AND MUSIC
Fall Semester 2015
MUSC*3820-01
TOPICS IN ETHNOMUSICOLOGY
TOPIC: ISSUES AND PROBLEMS IN ETHNOMUSICOLOGY



INSTRUCTOR: Howard Spring
TIME: Tuesday & Thursday, 10:00 – 11:20am
LOCATION: MacKinnon Building, Rm. 203
OFFICE: Johnston Hall, Rm. 112
PHONE: Ext. 58579
EMAIL: hspring@uoguelph.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday & Thursday, 2:30 – 4:00pm

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

Topics for this course will normally include some combination of the following: a specific world music tradition, ethnomusicological issues, theories, or methods. Subject matter will vary according to the instructor.

Prerequisite(s): 9.00 credits including (MUSC*1180 or MUSC*2180), MUSC*2270

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will examine ethnomusicology as a field of research from comparative and anthropological perspectives. The issues that we will focus on have been the subject of continuing debate among ethnomusicologists. They include:

- The creative process: How do various cultures create music.
- Insiders and Outsiders: Can we ever know another culture's music?
- The different kinds of relationships between music and culture.
- Musical ethnography: What are we studying when we study a culture's music?
- Musical continuity and change: Why and how does music change?
- Oral traditions: How do oral musics differ from written musics?
- Musical Style: What is musical style and how can it best be analyzed?
- Music and Meaning: How can music mean?
- Musical enculturation: How is music transmitted over time?
- Music and Identity: Why and how do cultures and individuals construct and reflect identity through music?

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Critical and creative thinking through the analysis of ethnomusicological theory and critical practice.
2. Literacy through the requirement of written reports that will entail extracting information from various sources, assessing their quality and validity, and writing good prose.
3. Global understanding, which is at the heart of ethnomusicology. Intercultural competence through working comparatively with the sounds, ideas, and behaviors for an array of cultures.
4. Oral and written communication skills through oral reports, discussion and written research.
5. Professional and ethical behaviour through team projects and engagement with ethical issues in research.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Bruno Nettl, *The Study of Ethnomusicology: Thirty Three Discussions*. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press. 2015.

METHOD OF EVALUATION:

Classroom reports.....15%

Students will be required to report and lead a discussion on at least one of the assigned readings during the term. Guidelines will be distributed in class.

Reflection report: Due Thursday Oct. 29, 2015.....35%

A written report summarizing your thoughts on the ethnological issues, concepts and problems discussed in class. Guidelines to be distributed in class.

Final Term Assignment: Research Project. Due Thursday December 3rd.50%

Students will conduct an ethnographic music research project on a topic of their choosing (with permission of the instructor). The project will include discussion of musical sounds, behaviors, ideas, social, historical and cultural contexts, and where appropriate, issues discussed in class as they apply to the field research. Students can start working on this project as soon as the course begins but this is not necessary. Guidelines will be distributed in class no later than the end of the 9th week of the term.