



SCHOOL OF
Music

MUS 1315 01W
World Music
Course Syllabus: Spring 2025

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Dr. Natasha Merchant
Classroom Location:	Online
Office Hours:	By appointment
University E-mail:	natasha.merchant@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication:	email
Communication Response Time:	24 hours

Course Information

Course Description

This course provides a survey of World Music which focuses on the music, musical styles, genres, traditions and theories of non-Western cultures.

Student Learning Outcomes

In this course, students will:

1. Identify the basic elements of music (melody, harmony, rhythm, form, etc.) of music as found in the music of non-Western cultures.
2. Describe and identify, through visual and aural examples, the instruments, genres, and styles of music presented throughout the semester.
3. Connect non-Western music to its purposes in the societies and cultures of the music's origin.
4. Connect non-Western music to the student's personal experiences.

Required Textbook

Jeff Todd Titon, *Worlds of Music: An Introduction to the Music of the World's Peoples, 6th edition*, New York: Cengage Learning, 2017.

In this course, we will use the e-book and the book companion website called "Mindtap" on the textbook publisher's website. This is much cheaper than purchasing the book, and gives you access to the listening links and online study resources. You can purchase access to the ebook from the publisher's website through the D2L shell in the first week of class.

For some of the chapters, supplemental readings will be used in place of *Worlds of Music*. These readings will be posted in D2L, along with their corresponding assignments.

Course Requirements

Instructional Methods

You will complete the weekly readings in the textbook and watch the videos in D2L. All assignments, quizzes, and exams will be completed in D2L.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success

Keep up with course reading and listening, turn in assignments and complete quizzes and exams on time.

Assessments

Discussion Questions: You are required to respond to a Discussion Question each week. Once you post your contribution you will see the contribution of others. You then will be able to respond to them. In order to get full credit, you need to provide your own contribution and at least one response. Please use complete sentences and language that is appropriate for an academic setting.

Quizzes: You are required to complete a Quiz in D2L for each chapter. You may use your book, and the lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester. *Quizzes are located in the Activities section of D2L.*

Writing Assignments

My Music Culture: Students will describe their own music culture and the ways they use music in their personal lives. The assignment is due in the D2L shell by the due date listed in D2L and on the syllabus.

Album Review: Students will write an essay reviewing an album of non-Western music that they choose and connect it to concepts from the course.

Exams: Three exams will be administered. Each exam will include a written portion and a listening component.

Grading

A final grade will be calculated using the following scale

- Discussion Questions and Responses 10% of final grade
- Chapter Quizzes 20% of final grade
- Writing Assignments 30% of final grade
- Exams 40% of final grade

Grading Scale

A = 90 to 100% / B = 80 to 89% / C = 70 to 79% / D = 60 to 69% / F = 59 and below

How to keep track of your grades. Your grades will be posted in the D2L shell. Some assignments are automatically graded. Others (written work, for example) will be graded manually and may take extra time.

Course and University Procedures / Policies

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance

Late Assignments or Work

Late papers, assignments, and exams will not be accepted *unless prior arrangements have been made.*

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook

http://www.tamuc.edu/student_guidebook/Student_Guidebook.pdf

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedures 13.99.99.R0.01](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>
[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf)
<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>
<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu
Website: [Student Disability Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/)
<https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#)

document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

AI use policy

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

Course Calendar

Week	Content
Week 1: 1/13-1/17	Intro to World Music
Week 2: 1/21-1/24	Chapter 1: The Music-Culture as a World of Music <i>Discussion due Wednesday by 11:59pm, response due Thursday by 11:59pm</i> <i>Quiz due Friday by 11:59pm</i>

Week	Content
Week 3: 1/27-1/30	Chapter 11: Discovering and Documenting the World of Music <i>Discussion due Wednesday by 11:59pm, response due Thursday by 11:59pm</i> <i>Quiz due Friday by 11:59pm</i>
Week 4: 2/3-2/7	Chapter 2: North America / Native America <i>Discussion due Wednesday by 11:59pm, response due Thursday by 11:59pm</i> <i>Quiz due Friday by 11:59pm</i>
Week 5: 2/10-2/14	Chapter 3: Sub-Saharan Africa <i>Discussion due Wednesday by 11:59pm, response due Thursday by 11:59pm</i> <i>Quiz due Friday by 11:59pm</i>
Week 6: 2/17-2/21	Exam 1
Week 7: 2/24-2/28	Chapter 6: Asia/North India and Bollywood (Supplemental Readings posted in D2L) <i>Discussion due Wednesday by 11:59pm, response due Thursday by 11:59pm</i> <i>Quiz due Friday by 11:59pm</i> My Music Culture Essay due 2/28 by 11:59pm
Week 8: 3/3-3/7	Asia /South India (Supplemental Readings posted in D2L) <i>Discussion due Wednesday by 11:59pm, response due Thursday by 11:59pm</i> <i>Quiz due Friday by 11:59pm</i>
Week 9: 3/10-3/14	Spring Break
Week 10: 3/17-3/21	Chapter 7: Asia /Indonesia <i>Discussion due Wednesday by 11:59pm, response due Thursday by 11:59pm</i> <i>Quiz due Friday by 11:59pm</i>
Week 11: 3/24-3/28	Chapter 7: Asia/Indonesia continued <i>Discussion due Wednesday by 11:59pm, response due Thursday by 11:59pm</i> <i>Quiz due Friday by 11:59pm</i>
Week 12: 3/31-4/4	Exam 2
Week 13: 4/7-4/11	Chapter 8: Asia/China <i>Discussion due Tuesday by 11:59pm, response due Wednesday by 11:59pm</i> Album Review due 4/11 by 11:59pm
Week 14: 4/14-4/18	Asia/Tuva and Mongolia Supplemental reading and ethnography video posted in D2L <i>Assignment due Thursday by 11:59pm</i> <i>Quiz due Friday by 11:59pm</i>
Week 15: 4/21-4/25	Chapter 10 The Arab world <i>Discussion due Wednesday by 11:59pm, response due Thursday by 11:59pm</i> <i>Quiz due Friday by 11:59pm</i>

Week	Content
Week 16: 4/28-5/2	Extra Credit Assignment due 5/2 by 11:59pm
Final Exam	Exam 3 due 5/9