



**SCHOOL OF
Music**

**MUS – 1315 – 01E
World Music
Course Syllabus: Spring 2026**

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Dr. Tyler “Tash” Tashdjian
Classroom Location:	Classroom 213 (11:00 AM – 12:20 PM)
Office Location:	Classroom 213 or Reed Room
Office Hours:	Appointment only
Office Phone:	(903) 886-5303
University E-mail:	Tyler.Tashdjian@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication:	University email
Communication Response Time:	Within 24 hours

Course Information

Required Texts and Materials

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 during the first week of class.

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. No previous musical experience is required to participate in this course. (2025-2026 Undergraduate Catalog).

Graduating students will apply appropriate criteria to interpret, classify, and evaluate music of various cultures and time periods, in the appropriate historical and cultural context.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Identify the basic elements of music (melody, harmony, rhythm, form, etc.) 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 its origin.
4. Connect non-Western music to the students' personal experiences.

General Education Student Learning Outcomes

- **Critical thinking:** Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances, data, texts, or art.
- **Communication:** In written, oral, and/or visual communication, students will communicate in a manner appropriate to the audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.
- **Social responsibility:** Students will demonstrate an understanding of societal and/or civic issues.
- **Teamwork:** Students will be able to work together on group assignments.

Course Requirements

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Use of the learning management system (D2L), *MindTap*, and Microsoft Word.

Instructional Methods

Students will follow outlined activities for each week that include in-person lectures, listening to examples, readings, and discussions.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success

To complete this course, students should regularly attend class, keep up with weekly activities, and complete assignments on time.

Grading

Your final grade will be based on the following point distribution:

Discussion and Listening Activities	100
My Musical Culture Essay	150
Album Review	150
Exam 1	200
Exam 2	200
Exam 3	200
Total	1000

A = 1000-900; B = 899-800; C = 799-700; D = 699-600; F = Below 600

Assessments

Discussion and Listening Activities: 100 points of the final grade will be earned through these activities. There will be twelve Discussion and Listening Activities over the course of the semester. For activities focused on discussion, students will break into small groups to discuss a topic relevant to that day's lecture and submit a short written answer for credit. When activities are focused on practicing critical listening skills and listening identification, students will submit written answers individually and not in a group.

Dates of the Discussion and Listening Activities will not be announced ahead of time. The only way to earn points for a Discussion and Listening Activity is to be in the classroom for the entire class period on the day that the activity takes place. Discussion and Listening Activities cannot be made up for any reason. Each time you are present for an activity, you will earn 10 points toward your final grade (points are awarded based on the thoughtfulness of the response you submit). You can thus miss two Discussion and Listening Activities and still earn full points in this category. If you are present for all twelve Discussion and Listening Activities, you may earn up to 120 points in this category (20 points of extra credit). **I reserve the right to change Discussion and Listening Activities to graded pop quizzes if it becomes evident that students are not preparing for class or are not participating.**

My Musical Culture Essay: Students will write an essay describing their own music culture and the ways they use music in their personal lives.

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

Exams: There will be three exams over the course of the semester that consist of listening identification, and multiple-choice questions.

Grading: Grades will be posted within one week for Discussion and Listening Activities and Exams, and within two weeks for the My Musical Culture Essay and Album Review.

Course and University Procedures / Policies

School of Music Mission Statement:

The School of Music at East Texas A&M University promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

University Mission Statement:

East Texas A&M University provides a personal educational experience for a diverse community of life-long learners. Our purpose is to discover and disseminate knowledge for leadership and service in an interconnected and dynamic world. Our challenge is to nurture partnerships for the intellectual, cultural, social, and economic vitality of Texas and beyond.

ETAMU Attendance

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

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

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

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.

School of Music Engagement Expectations

Students are expected to actively participate in all assigned components of this course. Active participation includes being present, engaged, responsive, cooperative, respectful, and professional. It may also include providing feedback, asking questions, and being supportive of class members and faculty during instruction time.

Student Expectations

Students are expected to actively participate in all classes. Notification for excused absence must be received in advance. It is the individual student's responsibility to notify the instructor of a legitimate absence in advance. It is also the individual student's responsibility to acquire any missed notes and assignments from other students and/or the instructor.

Students are expected to actively participate in all classes by coming prepared and with all assigned materials. This course is a graduate research course. Bibliographical material, repertoire, library resources, applied techniques, as well as research techniques applicable to graduate study in music specific to flute/woodwind pedagogy will be surveyed and discussed. Be prepared to spend a significant amount of time doing research and review of materials outside of class.

Students are expected to demonstrate skills in pedagogy through their observation, analysis, discussion and feedback of the performances of other students. Students are expected to gain skills in this area by the observation of teaching techniques in their own private lessons and through the observation of teaching techniques of other students in studio class, guest artist classes on campus, and optional conference attendance or optional observations of master teachers online. Students will need to submit teaching videos and acquire a waiver from the student(s) in their videos.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all classes. It is the individual student's responsibility to notify the instructor of a legitimate absence in advance. It is also the individual student's responsibility to acquire any missed notes and assignments from other students and/or the instructor. After one (1) unexcused absence, the student's final grade will be dropped by one (1) letter grade for each additional unexcused absence.

Late Assignments or Work

No Late Work accepted.

Texas Education Code – Music Education

This course content is aligned with the standards established by the Texas Education Code, covering areas such as Music, the Commissioner's Rules, Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities, Technology, and English Language Proficiency. To review these standards, please visit the Music Education Program D2L Shell and select "Standards and Objectives."

Musician Health and Safety

As an Institutional Member of the National Association of Schools of Music, East Texas State A&M University supports the Association's commitment to student health and wellness. The following web address provides links to information for resources related to physical and mental well-being, as well as assists in offering preventative measures that students can take to avoid serious and/or chronic conditions: [Musician Health and Safety - East Texas A&M University](#)

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University 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:

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

[13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty](#)

AI use policy

East Texas A&M University 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.

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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.

Technology Requirements

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser

Support: https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

Access and Navigation

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

Communication and Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

[East Texas A&M University Supports Students' Mental Health](#)

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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 <https://www.etamu.edu/counseling-center/>

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, contact the Office of Student Disability Services at 903-886-5150, 903-886—5835; email studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu; online at [Student Disability Services](#)

or in-person in Room 162 of the Velma K. Waters Library.

Tenets of Common Behavior

All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See current Student Guidebook)

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Campus Concealed Carry - Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University 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 East A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to [34.06.02.R1 Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#)

and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Course Calendar

The assigned reading should be completed before class. **The syllabus is subject to change.**

All readings are from the course textbook.

Week 1	Course Introduction; Musical terms R: None Music-Culture; Ecological and Sustainable World of Music R: pg. 19-32
Week 2	<i>No Class Monday, January 19th (MLK Jr. Day)</i> Native American: Tribal Music R: pg. 33-57 Native American: North American Intertribal Music R: pg. 57-66
Week 3	Native American: Powwow Music; Flute Music; Popular Music R: pg. 66-80; 86-98 Africa: Introduction R: pg. 99-106
Week 4	Africa: Ewe people, Jalolu performers R: pg. 106-135 Africa: Dagbamba and Mbirra musics R: pg. 135-150
Week 5	Africa: Afrobeat; BaAka people; Exam Review R: pg. 150-173; Exam review sheet <i>Exam 1</i>
Week 6	<i>My Musical Culture Essay due</i> Black America: Music of Worship and Work R: pg. 175-195 Black America: Music of Play; Historical context of the Blues genre R: pg. 195-205
Week 7	Black America: Creating Blues music R: pg. 205-237 Europe: Social/Political Organization; Sounds of European Music R: pg. 237-261

<p>Week 8</p>	<p>Europe: Musical Case Studies R: pg. 261-292 Asia/India: History, Culture, and Music; Many Musics R: pg. 293-303</p>
<p>Week 9 Spring Break (March 9-13)</p>	<p>Asia/India: Classical Music; Carnatic Music; Indian Music and the West R: pg. 303-330 Asia/Indonesia: Central Java; Gamelan music R: pg. 331-355</p>
<p>Week 10</p>	<p>Asia/Indonesia: Gamelan music cont.; Bali; North Sumatra; Pop Music R: pg. 355-384; Exam review sheet <i>Exam 2</i></p>
<p>Week 11</p>	<p><i>Album Review due</i></p> <p>Asia: Traditional vs Modern; Cross section of Chinese Music; Folk Song; Instrumental Ensemble Traditions R: pg. 385-414 Asia: Opera, Solo Instrumental, and Religious Traditions; Popular Music; Chinese Music/World Music? R: pg. 414-440</p>
<p>Week 12</p>	<p>South America: Chile, Bolivia, and Ecuador R: pg. 441-471 South America: Andean Ensemble; Wawa Velorio; Don Ce'sar; Afro-Peruvian R: pg. 471-494</p>
<p>Week 13</p>	<p>Arab World: "Arabia;" Takht Ensemble; Categories and Terminology; Religion and Music R: pg. 495-514 Arab World: Maghrib; Morocco R: pg. 514-534</p>
<p>Week 14</p>	<p>Arab World: Bedouin Culture; Homeland, Diaspora, Globalization R: pg. 534-558</p>

Week 15	<i>Last Week of Classes (May 1st is the Last Day)</i> Music in Our Own Backyards R: pg. 559-569 Doing Musical Ethnography; Exam Review R: pg. 569-589; Exam Review Sheet
Finals Week	Tuesday May 5th, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm <i>Exam 3</i>