



SCHOOL OF
Music

MUS 1315 01W
World Music
Course Syllabus: Fall 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Dr. Natasha Merchant
Classroom Location:	Online
Office Hours:	By appointment
University E-mail:	natasha.merchant@etamu.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.

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

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 Assignment (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

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

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|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| • Discussion Questions and Responses | 10% of final grade |
| • Chapter Quizzes | 20% of final grade |
| • Writing Assignment | 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

Attendance Policy

Because this is an online course, there is no attendance policy. It is the responsibility of each student to keep pace with the course and complete work on time.

Late Assignments or Work

Assignments submitted within one week of the deadline will incur a 50% penalty. No assignments will be accepted beyond one week after the deadline.

Online Etiquette

Students are expected to be thoughtful and courteous in expressing their opinions and in responding to those of their classmates.

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

AI Use in Course (University Statement)

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.

AI Use in Course (Instructor Statement)

As an instructor, I recognize the potential of AI as a useful tool to aid learning, create content, and refine writing skills. However, I will not utilize AI to generate course materials or provide feedback to students. In this class, students are permitted to incorporate AI into assignments only when explicitly instructed to do so. Any other use of AI on assignments or exams will be deemed as academic dishonesty.

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

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 [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#); or in-person in Room 162 of the Velma K. Waters Library.

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 www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Health and Wellness

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](#)

East Texas A&M University Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#). <http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>
<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13student/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

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)

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

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 Texas 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 <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf> and/or consult your event organizer). 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.

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>

Course Calendar

Week	Content
Week 1: 8/24-8/30	Intro to World Music
Week 2: 8/31-9/6	Chapter 1: The Music-Culture as a World of Music <i>Discussion due Thursday by 11:59pm, response due Friday by 11:59pm</i> <i>Quiz due Sunday by 11:59pm</i>
Week 3: 9/8-9/13	Chapter 11: Discovering and Documenting the World of Music <i>Discussion due Thursday by 11:59pm, response due Friday by 11:59pm</i> <i>Quiz due Sunday by 11:59pm</i>
Week 4: 9/14-9/20	Chapter 2: North America / Native America <i>Discussion due Thursday by 11:59pm, response due Friday by 11:59pm</i> <i>Quiz due Sunday by 11:59pm</i>
Week 5: 9/21-9/27	Chapter 3: Sub-Saharan Africa <i>Discussion due Thursday by 11:59pm, response due Friday by 11:59pm</i> <i>Quiz due Sunday by 11:59pm</i>
Week 6: 9/28-10/4	Exam 1
Week 7: 10/5-10/11	Chapter 6: Asia/North India and Bollywood (Supplemental Readings posted in D2L) <i>Discussion due Thursday by 11:59pm, response due Friday by 11:59pm</i> <i>Quiz due Sunday by 11:59pm</i>
Week 8: 10/12-10/18	Asia /South India (Supplemental Readings posted in D2L) <i>Discussion due Thursday by 11:59pm, response due Friday by 11:59pm</i> <i>Quiz due Sunday by 11:59pm</i>

Week	Content
Week 9: 10/19-10/25	Chapter 7: Asia / Indonesia (Java) <i>Discussion due Thursday by 11:59pm, response due Friday by 11:59pm</i> <i>Quiz due Sunday by 11:59pm</i>
Week 10: 10/26-11/1	Chapter 7: Asia / Indonesia (Bali and Sumatra) <i>Discussion due Thursday by 11:59pm, response due Friday by 11:59pm</i> <i>Quiz due Sunday by 11:59pm</i>
Week 11/2-11/8	Exam 2
Week 12: 11/9-11/15	Asia/Tuva and Mongolia Supplemental reading and ethnography video posted in D2L <i>Extra Credit Assignment due Friday by 11:59pm</i> <i>Extra Credit Quiz due Sunday by 11:59pm</i> My Music Culture Essay Due 4/19 at 11:59pm
Week 13: 11/16-11/22	Chapter 8: Asia/China <i>Discussion due Thursday by 11:59pm, response due Friday by 11:59pm</i> <i>Quiz due Sunday by 11:59pm</i>
Week 14: 11/23-11/29	Week of Thanksgiving
Week 15: 11/30-12/6	Chapter 10 The Arab world <i>Discussion due Thursday by 11:59pm, response due Friday by 11:59pm</i> <i>Quiz due Sunday by 11:59pm</i>
Week 16: 12/7-12/11	Exam 3 due by 5/1 at 11:59pm