MUSIC 233: MUSICAL RHYTHM IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE
University of Waterloo
Conrad Grebel University College
Dept. of Music
Winter Term 2018

Class Time: Tuesday & Thursday 1:00 PM – 2:20 PM
Location: CGR Rm 1208

Instructor: Prof. Maisie Sum
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:30–3:10 PM, by appointment on Wednesdays 1:30–3:00 PM
Office Location: CGR Rm 1102
Phone: 519-885-0220 x24219
Email: msum@uwaterloo.ca

Course Description

A multidisciplinary survey of rhythm in selected musics examined in terms of scientific, symbolic, and experiential knowledge that connects it to the concepts of time, history, biology, evolution, anthropology, philosophy, psychology, and contemporary globalized culture. (Undergraduate Calendar 2017–18)

Summary of what the course will offer:

- An interdisciplinary view of music as a universal human phenomenon intended to enrich your experience and appreciation
- Practical and theoretical knowledge of rhythm from multidisciplinary perspectives such as biology, psychology, health studies, and ethnomusicology
- A sense of what music can mean and how it can be used
- A sense of what it can mean to be a musician
- Exposure to music you have never heard, and some that you have
- Interaction with expert musicians from Bali and elsewhere
- Hands-on experience playing Balinese (Indonesian) music on the Department of Music’s instruments, African music, and more
Throughout the term, you are expected to:

- Understand concepts and terms developed in lectures. You may be asked to memorize terms and definitions (and a few quotations) and asked to cite them and/or apply them to musical examples on tests.
- Prepare for lectures—do readings, watch videos, and/or listen to music.
- Participate actively in workshops and other musical activities in class.
- Engage in individual and group activities respectfully and with an open mind.
- Read assigned texts and participate in class discussions in a respectful way. You are expected to know what has been in the readings for tests.
- Come to all lectures on time, be focused, and take good notes. The class content—and the basis for the tests and assignments—is drawn largely from the lectures, which include discussions, AV materials, and music activities. There is no one textbook that matches the class material.
- Be present. As a member of this term’s 233 class, your participation and engagement as a learner is valued. Your consideration for the class and for others around you plays an important role in the classroom dynamics and is demonstrated through regular attendance and focus during lectures. Multitasking is a myth. For more information, watch “How Multitasking Is Affecting the Way You Think”.

Course Work

1. Written Tests (2 @ 25% each = 50%)*
   
   **First Test:** In-class, Thursday, February 15, covers Lectures 1–12 (inclusive).
   **Second Test:** In-class Thursday, March 22: covers Lectures 14–20 (inclusive; must also be familiar with concepts and tools from Lectures 1 to 8). A study guide will be distributed two weeks before each test.

   * This course requires you to listen to music examples. In the tests, you may be expected to identify key features of music (such as rhythmic elements, instrumentation, texture, ensemble size, etc.); the culture, country, and/or region of origin; the musical context; and the title of pieces. There are listening assignments throughout the term. You will need to do careful, frequent listening outside of class in order to become acquainted with the music studied. (N.B. *Parts of pieces, not necessarily the very beginning, will be played for identification or analysis. The playlist will be reviewed and possibly modified before a test.*)

2. Song Analysis (15%)
   
   Specifics will be distributed on January 25. Due at the beginning of class: Thursday, February 6

3. Music Demonstrations (2 @ 7.5% = 15%)*
   
   **Individual Demonstration** (in pairs): Tuesday, March 27 (in my office)
   **Group Demonstration:** Thursday, March 29 (CGR Rm 1209)

   * While precision in the music demonstrations is important, your effort, attitude, and ability to work in a team are also considered.
4. Journal of Intellectual Reflections (3 @ 2.5% + 1 @ 7.5% = 15%)

Human experience is an important component of this course. You are encouraged to reflect on the musical styles and traditions studied throughout the course with regard to meaning, function, use, context, sound (in general), and rhythmic features (in particular).

In-class or Dropbox reflections (3@2.5% = 7.5%): 250–350 words (approx. 1 to 2 handwritten pages, double spaced; or approx. 1 page typed using TNR 12-point, double-spaced). See Course Calendar for due dates.

Final reflection (7.5%): 600–900 words (written using a word processor, approximately 2 to 3 pages using TNR 12-pt, double-spaced). Submit previous reflections (scan or photo) and your final reflection to Dropbox by April 3, 2018, 5:00 PM.

See details in the Intellectual Reflections Guidelines.

5. Participation & Attitude (5%)

You are assessed throughout the term on your overall engagement with the course, which includes discussions and questions in and outside of class, listening activities, responses to assigned materials, hands-on music-making activities*, and attitude. Regular class attendance is important, expected and factored into the grade (one absence will be excused without penalty or a medical note). In addition to attendance, your focused attention is key to understanding and engaging with the material, and doing well on the tests.

*N.B. Assessment of in-class music-making activities is based on your effort, participation, and attitude.

Test and Due Dates Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Song Analysis Assignment</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>February 6 (week 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Test</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>February 15 (week 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Test</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>March 22 (week 10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music Demonstration (individual)</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>March 27 (week 11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Demonstration (group)</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>March 29 (week 11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intellectual Reflections</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Feb 13, March 8, March 23, April 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation &amp; Attitude</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
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Course Materials: Reading and Listening

Required Readings:
Readings are available as electronic resources and uploaded to the course site on LEARN (link to Course e-Reserves and uploaded under Course Content/Readings tab). See the Course Calendar for weekly reading assignments and “233 Reading List – Winter 2018” for details.

_N.B. The books from which many of these readings have been scanned are on reserve in the Conrad Grebel Milton Good Library on the 3rd floor of Grebel and available for purchase at the UWaterloo Campus Bookstore (see Reading List)._  

Listening Examples:
Due to copyright laws, only some recordings have been uploaded to LEARN as mp3 files. Some are free to access on the web, though there may be a few iTunes purchases. Other music examples are only available on CDs in the Grebel library Course Reserves. These tracks have been selected for their pedagogical value—that is, the selections include extensive explanations in books or liner notes, and/or listening guides. The location of music examples is indicated on the Course Calendar. For details, see “233 Playlist” posted on LEARN. You are also encouraged to go to NAXOS World to listen to additional recordings of the musical areas covered throughout the course. Click _here_ if connecting off-campus. (N.B. In order to get off-campus access you must first “Connect from Home” from the library home page using their Watcard barcode and last name.)

**ON RESERVE** in the Grebel Library (3rd Floor)
- Berliner, Paul, prod. _Zimbabwe: The Soul of Mbira_. Nonesuch 9 72054-2 [CGC CD900 Zim Fol-1]

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Extras – Lunches: Beginning January 18 I will reserve each Thursday from 12:15 PM–12:45 PM for lunch in the Grebel dining hall with anyone in class who wants to come, chat, and get to know one another better. It is challenging to have conversational interaction in class and I would like to. Bring your lunch or buy it in the dining hall. For the day’s lunch menu, go to _Grebel Weekly Menu_.

Asking for help: You are encouraged to ask questions and discuss any concerns you may have about the course. If you email for help, you will get a prompt answer if your question is pertinent. If the answer to your question was covered in class or is elsewhere available, your message might not receive attention. So be sure to check in advance. Mainly, I would prefer to speak to you in person. Please take advantage of the office hours listed on the first page of the syllabus, or make an appointment if the office hours conflict with your course schedule. I am always happy to talk and eager to get to know you.

Playing music through the year: The UWaterloo Department of Music offers three World Music Ensembles in Balinese music—two large gamelan ensembles (semara dana) and a Balinese chamber percussion ensemble (gender wayang)—which are open to ALL students, whether you have studied music before or not. Why not take one of these? It provides a wonderful kind of learning you may not have experienced. In addition, you will have the opportunity to study with I Dewa Made Suparta, Grebel’s artist-in-residence from Bali, Indonesia—a founding member of Gamelan Çudamani. Check out a performance recorded during one of their U.S. tours Gamelan Çudamani - Royce Hall.

**Balinese Gamelan (large ensemble)**
- [World Music Ensemble Course](#) (for credit register for MUSIC 116, 117, 216, 217, 316, 317)
  - Meets Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:00 to 5:20 PM
- [Community Gamelan](#) (extra-curricular, for more information)
  - Meets Thursdays 6:30 to 8:30 PM (10 sessions, begins January 11)

**Balinese Chamber Gamelan (2 to 4 players)**
- Nine hours of instruction over the 12-week term (register for credit)
  - Schedule coordinated between instructor and student.

The above ensemble courses normally require no work beyond going to rehearsal. You must participate in a concert at the end of the term. If you want to participate in a satisfying group music-making experience and learn about another culture and its music at the same time, this is an EXCELLENT AND RARE OPPORTUNITY.

Come to an information session to learn more about the Balinese gamelan (sign up at [Gamelan Info Session](#)). For general information about the ensemble go to [Gamelan](#).

The UWaterloo Department of Music has six additional music ensembles to choose from—University Choir, Chamber Choir, Chapel Choir, Instrumental Chamber Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, and Orchestra. For more information go to [UWaterloo Department of Music Ensembles](#).
Course Policies and the University of Waterloo

1. **Attendance.** Attendance is important, expected and factored into your final grade. A poor attendance record and habitual tardiness will affect your overall performance and result in a lower grade. One absence will be excused without penalty or a medical note. For exceptional cases, see Point #9 *Accommodation Due to Illness*.

2. **Technology Policy.** Attitude is important for fostering a positive learning environment. Inappropriate use of technology has been shown to have negative impacts on class attitude and attention. Unless otherwise instructed, cellphones must be safely stowed and silenced during class (airplane mode is preferable) and computers used for taking notes only. The severity of this cannot be overstated and your grade will go down if you violate these rules. Studies have shown that texting, viewing social media, surfing the net, task switching, etc., affect the learning and performance of others in the classroom. Please be considerate. For more information:
   - [Facebook and texting made me do It](#)
   - [Laptop Distractions in the Classroom](#)

3. **Course Work Deadlines**
   - *Homework* assignments must be submitted at the beginning of class or electronically (as instructed) by the due date indicated on the *Course Calendar*. Note that electronic submissions to the Dropbox on LEARN will be closed at 11:59 PM on the due date. See Point #9 *Accommodation Due to Illness* below for exceptional cases.
   - *Tests* and *in-class tasks* must be written and submitted in class on the same date it is given as indicated on the *Course Calendar*. See Point #9 *Accommodation Due to Illness* below for exceptional cases.

4. **Academic Integrity**
   In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the UWWaterloo Academic Integrity Webpage ([https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/](https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/)) and the Arts Academic Integrity Office Webpage ([http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/current-undergraduates/academic-responsibility](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/current-undergraduates/academic-responsibility)) and [https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/currentundergraduates/student-support/ethical-behavior](https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/currentundergraduates/student-support/ethical-behavior) for more information.

5. **Discipline**
   A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing academic offenses and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate associate dean. For information on categories of
offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71, Student Discipline. For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties.

6. Grievance
A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4 (https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70). When in doubt please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

7. Appeals
A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71, Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72, Student Appeals (http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm).

8. Access Ability Services - Accommodation for Students with Disabilities
https://uwaterloo.ca/disability-services/
The University of Waterloo and Grebel share a commitment to support the participation and access to university programs, services, and facilities by persons with disabilities.

Note for Students with Disabilities:
• Contact the Office of AccessAbility Services at 519-888-4567 ext. 35082 or visit Needles Hall 1132. Book an appointment to meet with an advisor to discuss the available services and supports. The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD) collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the Office at the beginning of each academic term.

9. Accommodation Due to Illness
From time to time students become ill or have ongoing medical conditions that prevent them from meeting academic obligations. The University is committed to assisting students who are ill and has established the following policy:

Documentation:
Students in on-campus courses who are ill and unable to meet assignment due dates or write a term test or final examination should seek medical treatment and provide confirmation of the illness to the instructor(s) within 48 hours. A doctor’s note or form created by the physician or clinic is acceptable. In the case of a missed test, students must submit within 48 hours medical documentation that contains the same information specified on the UW Verification of Illness Form.