

# MUSIC 232: MUSIC AS A GLOBAL PHENOMENON

University of Waterloo  
Conrad Grebel University College  
Department of Music  
Fall Term 2019

Prof. Maisie Sum

Class Time: TTh 1:00–2:20 PM

Location: CGR Rm 1208

Office Hours: M 12:00–12:50 PM; T 2:20–3:10 (or by appointment)

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## Course Description

A survey of music studied in cross-cultural perspective with regard to its sound, performance practices, meanings, and functions from selected world traditions found in the diverse cultures of Africa, Asia, Latin America, North America, Europe, and the Middle East (in *Undergraduate Calendar 2018–19*).

Music is often thought of as universal, yet the way we understand, listen to, think about, make and use music differs across societies, not to mention within the same society. Through a survey of music worldwide, this course considers the meanings music has to the life of people in societies from Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe, and North America. Our study of music considers three perspectives—sound, concept, and behaviour—and begins with the premise that to understand a people's music is to understand their aesthetic sensibility.

In this course, you are asked to open your ears, minds, and your imagination. Emphasis is placed on developing analytical and listening skills, and on participation in music-making activities (e.g., workshops, clapping rhythms). When possible, topics will be complemented by interaction with guest artists in the form of lecture demonstrations and workshops. These activities, combined with readings, internet sources, group discussions, listening and analysis, video footage, multi-media presentations, and live performances aim to give you firsthand experience of the diversity of musics in the world. Points of discussion may also include music and globalization, concepts of authenticity and appropriation, representation, preservation, the role of music in ritual, and its role for survival. Learning about music from diverse cultures can enable cross-cultural understanding, and in turn provide a mirror into our own sonic sensibilities and cultural attitudes. All are welcome. *No pre-requisite required.*

## Summary of what the course will offer:

- A cross-cultural perspective of music as a human phenomenon, intended to enrich your experience and appreciation
- Practical and theoretical knowledge of music from diverse world cultures
- A sense of what music can mean and how it can be used
- Exposure to music you have never heard and some that you have
- Participation in an exchange of ideas with peers
- Interaction with expert musicians from Bali and South India
- Hands-on experience playing Balinese gamelan music on the Department of Music's instruments

## 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
- Read assigned texts and participate in class discussions in a respectful way. You are expected to know what has been in the readings for quizzes and tests.
- Engage in-class activities (individual and group)
- Participate actively in music workshops and lecture demonstrations given by invited guest artists
- 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.

## Success in the course will enable you to:

- Identify previously unfamiliar sounds and specific musical features about recorded examples (e.g., instruments, key elements, ensemble type)
- Discuss the relationship between music and society (e.g., how music may reflect the society that creates it, how it may reinforce or subvert social norms) and explain that understanding music can help us to understand the culture that produces it
- Explain the use, function, and meaning of music in diverse world cultures and reflect on music's use, function and meaning in your own life and in the lives of people around you
- Demonstrate basic rhythmic patterns from diverse music cultures
- Consider issues associated with the impact of globalizing forces (e.g., tourism, internet) on music traditions (e.g., change in performance context, instrumentation, ensemble)
- Compare music traditions cross-culturally and assess similarities and differences (e.g., sound, concept, behaviour)
- Observe musical activities and listen to music more critically, with greater awareness, and in consideration of both sonic and cultural elements

## Course Work

### 1. Two Written Tests (20% + 25% = 45%)\*

- a. **First Test (20%)**: Primarily focused on ethnomusicological concepts and the music traditions of Africa and Latin America. In-class Thursday, **Oct 10**.
- b. **Second Test (25%)**: Primarily focused on the music traditions of North America and Asia, and the Music and Globalization lecture; however, you are expected to have an understanding of all materials covered from September 5-12 (inclusive). In-class Tuesday, **Dec 3**.

\* This course requires you to listen to music examples. In the tests you will be expected to identify key features of music (such as instrumentation, texture, ensemble size); the culture, country, and/or region of origin; the musical context; and the title of pieces. There are listening assignments in most classes. 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. The playlist will be reviewed and possibly modified before a test.*)

### 2. Research Plan, Outline, and Bibliography (15%)

Choose a topic or region of study inspired by your experience in the music workshops or by the lectures, and related readings. More information to be distributed on Tuesday, September 24.

Due at the beginning of class on Thursday, **Oct 24**.

### 3. Lightning Talk (10%)

A short six-minute presentation (5-talk + 1-music) in which you apply concepts and techniques studied throughout the term to discuss the topic or region you selected for your research plan. Use presentation software (e.g., Powerpoint) and include one audio/audio-visual clip for your talk. More information to be distributed on Tuesday, October 1.

Tuesday, **November 19**, and Thursday, **November 21**. If necessary, presentations will be added on Thursday, **November 26**.

### 4. Concert/Event Report (10%)

Attend a world music concert/event this term and write a report. If you choose to attend something that is not listed in the *Course Calendar* or suggested on LEARN, please check with your professor first to ensure that it is appropriate for the assignment. For more information about how to write the review and expectations, see *Event Review Guidelines* (on LEARN). See *Course Calendar* for concert suggestions and feel free to share "world" music concerts with the class

Due: **One week after the date of the concert** and no later than **Friday, December 6**.

\* Remember to include your ticket and the concert program with your review!

## 5. Intellectual Reflections (15%)

Human experience is an important component of this course. You are encouraged to reflect on the music traditions studied throughout the course with regard to meaning, function, use, context, and sound. During the course, you will have opportunities to interact with expert musicians in the form of lecture demonstrations and music workshops. You will also view videos and participate in presentations delivered by your peers. For some of these activities, you will be given class time to reflect on your experience and write your thoughts and ideas (e.g., about the music, your experience playing/learning, the teaching method, learning process, demonstration, presentation, how you connect with what you heard, learned, experienced, and so on). You are expected to connect to related readings or class discussions in your writing. Keep all reflections. For your final reflection, you will be asked to consider your experience throughout the term and to review your previous reflections.

Short reflections (in-class or dropbox): 250–350 words (approx. 1 to 2 handwritten pages, double spaced). Submit at the end of class or via dropbox by 8PM (on the same day of class). See the *Course Calendar* for intellectual reflection (IR) due dates. (5 @ 1% each = 5%)

Final reflection (homework): 600–800 words (written using a word processor, 12-pt TNR, double-spaced). Submit with all previous IRs attached via dropbox by **Thursday, December 5**. You have an automatic grace period of one-week. (10%)

## 6. 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<sup>+</sup>, and attitude. Regular class attendance is important, expected and factored into the grade (two absences will be excused without penalty or a medical note). In addition to attendance, your attention is key to understanding and engaging with the material, and doing well on the tests.

<sup>+</sup>N.B. Assessment of music-making activities is based on your effort, participation, and attitude.

## 7. 232 Music Café

You are welcome to share music with the class at the end of the term during the Music Café. Each participant has 5 minutes. Your selection could be inspired by a reading or listening assignment, something you decided to google after a lecture and found interesting, music that has a specific meaning to you, music you enjoy, etc. Or you may choose to demonstrate music that you already play or are learning to play. In addition to sharing a clip or giving a demo, you are encouraged to say a few words, though it is not required. Notify your professor via **email by October 25** if you wish to participate.

## Assessment and Due Dates Summary

Components	Weighting	Dates
<b>Intellectual Reflections</b>	15%	See <i>Course Calendar</i> * final reflection – due Dec 5
<b>Research Plan and Bibliography</b>	15%	October 24 (week 7)
<b>Lightning Talk</b>	10%	November 19, 21
<b>Tests</b>		
- First Test	20%	October 10 (week 6)
- Second Test	25%	December 3 (week 13)
<b>Concert/Event Report</b>	10%	One-week after concert date * no later than Friday, Dec 6
<b>Participation &amp; Attitude</b>	5%	

## Course Materials

### 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.

*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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. Others are free to access on the web, though there may be a few iTunes purchases. Many of the music examples are only available on CDs in the Grebel library Course Reserves (listed below), and 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 “232 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)

- Berliner, Paul, prod. *Zimbabwe: The Soul of Mbira*. Nonesuch 9 72054-2 [CGC CD900 Zim Fol-1]
- Gold, Lisa. *Music in Bali: Experiencing Music, Expressing Culture*. New York: Oxford University Press. [ML345.I5 G65 2005] - companion CD with book
- Miller, Terry E. and Andrew C. Shahriari. 2012. *World Music: A Global Journey*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. New York: Routledge. [ML3545.M54 2012 discs]
- Shelemay, Kay Kaufman. *Soundscapes: Exploring Music in a Changing World*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. [MT90.S53 2006] - companion CD-set with book

- Tenzer, Michael. 2011 [1998]. *Balinese Gamelan Music*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (with companion CD). Vermont: Tuttle Publishing. [ML1251.I53 T46 2011] - companion CD with book
- Tilton, Jeff, ed. *Worlds of Music: An Introduction to the Music of the World's Peoples*, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition [ML3798.W67 2009 discs]

**Extras – Lunches:** Beginning Monday, September 23 I will reserve each Monday from 11:30 AM–12:00 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 [Dining Hall Menu](#)

**Writing and Communication Centre (WCC):** The WCC works with students as they develop their ideas, draft, and revise. Writing and communication specialists offer one-on-one support in planning assignments, synthesizing and citing research, organizing papers and reports, designing presentations and e-portfolios, and revising for clarity and coherence.

You can make multiple appointments throughout the term, or you can drop in at the Library for quick questions or feedback. To book a 25- or 50-minute appointment and to see drop-in hours, visit [uwaterloo.ca/wcc](http://uwaterloo.ca/wcc). Group appointments for team-based projects, presentations, and papers are also available.

**Please note** that communication specialists guide you to see your work as readers would. They can teach you revising skills and strategies, but will not change or correct your work for 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 Course 116, 117, 216, etc. (register for credit)  
Meets Tuesday and Thursday 4:00 to 5:20 PM
- Community Gamelan (extra-curricular)  
Meets Thursday 6:00 to 8:00 PM (10 sessions, begins September 19)

#### *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. For more information go to [UWaterloo Department of Music Ensembles](#).

## Responsibilities, Expectations and other Academic Information

1. **Look after yourself and each other.** As you know, an important part of academic success is personal well-being. Eat well, sleep sufficiently, get some exercise and spend time outdoors, and don't abuse your body. If you are struggling with more-than-normal (debilitating) stress, anxiety, lack of motivation and/or depression, please talk to friends, family, or relevant professionals. There are many supports here at Conrad Grebel/UW. If you need help sourcing these, talk to your professor. Take responsibility for yourself and look out for others. Be kind and compassionate with each other.

The content of this course may be difficult to watch, read about, and listen to. Allow yourself to feel discomfort as an opportunity to learn. Your professor will give advance notice of particularly difficult material. There will be opportunities to debrief and talk about the impact of the subject matter. Feel free to talk to your professor (and each other, as well as professionals), if you are struggling with the course content.

2. **Attend class regularly and take notes.** A poor attendance record and habitual lateness will affect your overall performance and result in a lower grade. Attending class regularly will help you maintain interest in the topic of the course, keep up with course requirements and guidelines for assignments, and obtain course content that is not available in readings or on LEARN. Taking notes in class is important as a practice of knowledge retention, a technique for attentiveness, and also to help you gather information that you will need for any tests or essays. Attendance is monitored. If you arrive late, it is your responsibility to ensure that you have not been marked absent for the duration of the class. To allow for occasional illness or unexpected calamity, two absences will be excused without penalty or a medical note during the term. It is **your responsibility** to contact your professor **in advance** if you know you will miss a class. Please note that as a member of the class you play a part in the learning process of this unique class community. Your presence contributes to the growth, dynamics, and success of everyone in this space, as well as your own.
3. **Be attentive to each other and participate in classroom discussions.** Ask questions about things that you do not understand or are not clear. Be respectful of other students and their opinions. Remember that everyone has a story.
4. **You are responsible for catching up on material that you have missed.** You can do this by asking your professor for any handouts, asking how you might view films that you missed, and borrowing notes from a classmate (do not ask your professor for lecture notes, they will probably not help much!).
5. **LEARN.** This course uses LEARN. It is your responsibility to ensure you can receive email through LEARN as this is how your professor will communicate with students and you with each other. Please check the course site regularly for announcements, handouts, suggestions, etc. You will be submitting most of your assignments to a Dropbox in LEARN.
6. **Communication.** If you wish to talk with your professor about any course related or other matters, you may do so after class, by appointment, or through email. Your professor will do their best to respond to your emails within 48 hours between 9 and 5PM. Before you make an inquiry about assignments, etc., please do check the syllabus first to confirm whether the information you need is there. All requests for assignment extensions or other special

arrangements must be confirmed with your professor by email, so that there is an agreement in writing (and so that your professor does not forget!). Ensure that your UWaterloo email address is forwarded to your personal email address (if you prefer to only check the latter). While email works well, your professor 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 these hours conflict with your course schedule. Your professor is always happy to talk and eager to get to know you.

7. **Understand course requirements.** Please ask questions if these are not clear. Complete assignments on time (see **Syllabus** and **Course Calendar** for due dates). Note that electronic submissions to the Dropbox on LEARN have specified end times on the given due date. Assignments arriving later than these times will be considered late.

*Quizzes, tests* and any *in-class tasks* must be written and submitted in class on the same date they are given as indicated on the **Course Calendar**.

Your professor will do their best to grade and return them in a timely manner. If LEARN is not functioning, your professor will communicate alternate submission instructions to you by email. Please plan your academic work carefully, keeping in mind the deadlines for assignments in all your courses. Your professor is generally amenable to requests for extensions in situations of illness, emergencies, or family/personal crises; however, your professor does expect that you consult with them about an extension **BEFORE** the assignment is due.

8. **Late Policy.** Assignments that are submitted past the due date without any prior consultation with your professor will be subject to a grading penalty of 2% per day.
9. **Electronic devices.** Inappropriate use of technology has been shown to have negative impacts on class attitude, attention, and performance. Unless otherwise instructed, cellphones and other electronic devices must be safely stowed away and silenced (airplane mode is preferred) **before** class begins. If you need your phone available for an emergency in a specific class, let your professor know.

It is acceptable to use laptops for taking notes in class. If you use it for other activity such as facebook, texting, etc. you will be asked to cease such activity, or your devices might be requisitioned for the duration of the class. The severity of this kind of distraction cannot be overstated and will be reflected in your grade. Studies have shown that texting, viewing social media, surfing the net, task switching, etc., affect the learning and performance of others in the classroom to a greater degree. Please be considerate. For more information, see: [Facebook and texting made me do It](#) and [Laptop Distractions in the Classroom](#)

## UWaterloo Policies and Information

### **Academic Integrity and Discipline**

*Academic Integrity:* In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the [Office of Academic Integrity webpage](#) for more information.

*Discipline:* A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. Check [the Office of Academic Integrity](#) for more information. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs

help in learning how to avoid offences (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. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. 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](#).

### Grievances and Appeals

*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. When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

*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](#).

### Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

*Note for students with disabilities:* The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (1401), 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 AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

### Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health supports if they are needed.

#### On Campus

- Counselling Services: [counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca) / 519-888-4567 ext 32655
- [MATES](#): one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

#### Off campus, 24/7

- [Good2Talk](#): Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-433 ext. 6880
- [Here 24/7](#): Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- [OK2BME](#): set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 extension 213

### Accommodation for Illness

A medical certificate presented in support of an official petition for relief from normal academic requirements must provide all of the information requested on the “University of Waterloo Verification of Illness” form or it will not be accepted. More information can be obtained from Health Services and the form is available in pdf: <https://uwaterloo.ca/health-services/student-medical-clinic/services/verification-illness>