MUSIC 233: MUSICAL RHYTHM IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

University of Waterloo
Conrad Grebel University College
Dept. of Music
Winter Term 2017

Instructor: Prof. Maisie Sum

Class Time: Tuesday & Thursday 11:30AM – 12:50 PM
Location: CGUC Rm 1208

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 1:30–2:30 PM (or by appointment)
Office Location: CGUC 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 (in Undergraduate Calendar 2016–17)

Summary of what the course will offer:

• An interdisciplinary view of music as a human phenomenon, intended to enrich your experience and appreciation
• Practical and theoretical knowledge of rhythm
• 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
• 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
• 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.
Course Work

1. **Three Tests** given in class (15% x 3 = 45%).
   - **Thursday, February 2**: covers Lectures 1–8 (inclusive)
   - **Thursday, March 2**: covers Lectures 9–15 (inclusive)*
   - **Thursday, March 30**: covers Lectures 17–24 (inclusive)*

   *N.B. You are expected to understand concepts from previous lectures.

2. **Analysis of Folk and Children’s Songs Assignment** (15%). Specifics will be distributed on January 26. Due at the beginning of class: **Thursday, February 16**

3. **Major Project** (25%). Choose a topic inspired by your experience in the music workshops or by the lectures, and related readings. Apply concepts and techniques studied throughout the term. More information will be distributed on February 9.
   - **Thursday, March 9**: Research Plan, Outline and Bibliography (10%)
   - **Tuesday, March 21 and Thursday March 23**: Lightning Talk and 750-word Paper (15%)

4. **Intellectual Reflection (IR)** written in class (2% x 4 = 8%).
   Human experience is an important component of this course. I encourage you to reflect on your personal experience with the music traditions studied throughout the course with regard to meaning, function, use, context, and sound. You will also get hands-on experience playing music in workshops led by expert musicians. Following each workshop you will be given class time to write your reflections on the activity—for example, about the music, your experience playing/learning, the teaching method, process, et cetera. Hand in your reflection at the end of class.
   Due in class: **January 19, January 26, February 28, March 16**

5. **Participation & Attitude** (7%). 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 attention is key to understanding and engaging with the material, and doing well on the tests. This grade is based on the instructor’s assessment (worth 5%) and your self-assessment (worth 2%). *N.B. You are assessed on your effort, participation, and attitude.

**Test and Due Dates Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test and Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Test</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>February 2 (week 4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Song Analysis Assignment</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>February 16 (week 7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Test</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>March 2 (week 8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major Project (25%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Plan, Outline, Bibliography</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>March 9 (week 9)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Presentation &amp; Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>March 21, 23 (week 11)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Third Test</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>March 30 (week 12)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intellectual Reflection (x4)</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>Jan 19, Jan 26, Feb 28, March 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation &amp; Attitude</td>
<td>7%</td>
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Course Materials: Reading and Listening


To learn more about its origins go to [http://soundingthedepths.blogspot.ca](http://soundingthedepths.blogspot.ca)

**Other Readings:** Available as PDFs uploaded to LEARN, online sources with link via LEARN (go to Course e-Reserves), or library reserve as specified below.

**Listening Examples:** Due to copyright laws I can only upload some mp3 files to LEARN, and in some cases only a portion can be uploaded. Some recordings 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 (3rd floor, CGUC) Course Reserves. See “233 Playlist” posted on LEARN.

**Reading Assignments**


*By February 14:* Steven Mithen’s *The Singing Neanderthals* in its entirety (course text).


*By March 14:* *Music: A Very Short Introduction* by Nicholas Cook (Oxford University Press 2000), Chapters 1, 2, 4, and Conclusion. You may purchase this book at the UW bookstore; or on amazon at [https://www.amazon.ca/Music-Short-Introduction-Nicholas-Cook/dp/0192853821/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1483378425&sr=8-1&keywords=nicholas+cook+music](https://www.amazon.ca/Music-Short-Introduction-Nicholas-Cook/dp/0192853821/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1483378425&sr=8-1&keywords=nicholas+cook+music), or read the copy on reserve at the Grebel Library (3rd floor, CGUC).

*By March 16:* TBA

**Extras – Lunches:** Beginning January 31 I will reserve each Tuesday from 12:55–1:25PM 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 [https://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/current-students/general-information/kitchen/weekly-menu](https://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/current-students/general-information/kitchen/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 two World Music Ensemble courses in Balinese music—a large gamelan ensemble (*semara dana*) and a Balinese chamber percussion ensemble (*gender wayang*)—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 taped during a U.S. tour [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGy1ANrWmY4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGy1ANrWmY4).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Balinese Gamelan (<em>large ensemble</em>)</th>
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<tr>
<td>• World Music Course 116, 117, 216, etc. (register for credit)</td>
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<td>Meets Tuesday and Thursday 4:00 to 5:20 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Community Gamelan (extra-curricular)</td>
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<td>Meets Wednesday 6:30 to 8:30 PM</td>
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<th>Balinese Chamber Gamelan (<em>2 to 4 players</em>)</th>
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<td>• Nine hours of instruction over the 12-week term (register for credit)</td>
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<td>Schedule coordinated between instructor and student.</td>
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The above ensemble courses require no work beyond coming to class for 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 [https://uwaterloo.ca/music/ensembles/ensemble-audition-times#Gamelan](https://uwaterloo.ca/music/ensembles/ensemble-audition-times#Gamelan)). For general information about the ensemble go to [https://uwaterloo.ca/music/ensembles#Gamelan](https://uwaterloo.ca/music/ensembles#Gamelan).

The UWaterloo Department of Music has five additional music ensembles to choose from. Acceptance to these is by audition or interview, and at the discretion of the instructor. They are: University Choir, Chamber Choir, Chapel Choir, Instrumental Chamber Ensemble, and Jazz Ensemble. For more information go to the Dept. of Music website at [https://uwaterloo.ca/music/ensemble](https://uwaterloo.ca/music/ensemble).

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Course Policies and the University of Waterloo

1. **Attendance**. Attendance will be taken at lectures. It is important, expected and factored into your final grade. A poor attendance record and habitual tardiness will impact 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 #10 **Accommodation Due to Illness**.

2. **Laptop, Tablet, and Cellphone 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., impact the learning and performance of others in the classroom. Please be considerate. For more information, see [http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0747563212003305](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0747563212003305); [http://bama.ua.edu/~sprentic/695%20Sana%20et%20al.%202013-laptops.pdf](http://bama.ua.edu/~sprentic/695%20Sana%20et%20al.%202013-laptops.pdf); [http://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2404587945](http://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2404587945)

3. **Course Work Deadlines**
   
   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. These dates are marked with a single asterisks. See Point #10 **Accommodation Due to Illness** below for exceptional cases.

4. **Tests and In-class assignments**
   
   Tests and in-class assignments must be written and submitted in class on the date indicated on the **Course Calendar**. These dates are marked with double asterisks. See Point #10 **Accommodation Due to Illness** below for exceptional cases.

5. **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 [UWaterloo Academic Integrity Webpage](https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/) and the [Arts Academic Integrity Office Webpage](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/current-undergraduates/academic-responsibility) and [https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/current-undergraduates/student-support/ethical-behavior](https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/current-undergraduates/student-support/ethical-behavior) for more information.

6. **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](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm).

7. **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.
8. **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).

9. **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.

10. **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 (midterm or final exam), students must submit within 48 hours medical documentation that contains the same information specified on the UW Verification of Illness Form.