

Course: **Music in World Culture**
Mus. 2220 & MUS 2221
Spring Semester 2025

Venue: TPA-141 and/or 143

Time: Wednesdays 11AM - 1:45 PM

Professor: Michael K. Harrist

Contact: Office hours: Sundays 2-4PM (zoom)
Email : mharrist@kean.edu
Music Office 908 737-4330
201 679-0332

Required materials:

William Alves: *Music of the Worlds Peoples (3rd Edition)*.

CD Recordings and Active Listening Tools included with text.

Boston, MA, Schirmer Cengage Learning, 2013.

ISBN 978-1-133-30794-5

CD Recordings and Visual Materials pertaining to the field will be used in classes

(All required materials are available in the campus Book Store.)

For more information about this course and for course materials go to Canvas <https://kean.instructure.com>. All students are asked to access material and submit homework through Canvas.

Open Educational Resources

For more information, please see the Nancy Thompson Library Learning Commons: <http://libguides.kean.edu/OER>

Instructional Method

Goals and content of the course:

This purpose of this course is to survey the music and musical cultures of the world, focusing on musical traditions other than those of the Western European lineage. This course will serve as an introduction to the discipline of ethnomusicology, the study of music in the context of culture, emphasizing the meaning of musical styles to the people who practice them. In so doing, the course will not only highlight the distinctions typically observed between western and non-western music types, but will also demonstrate a methodology distinct from that of traditional musicology, which focuses on the structure and place of music in the Western European historical context. By investigating the music of a variety of the world's cultures, and how a particular music both reflects and shapes the cultures of which they are a part, students will seize the opportunity to reflect upon views of the world that may be different than their own. The text displays an historical timeline as well as a detailed geographical description of each chapter.

Much of the world's music is created in the context of common life experiences, where distinctions between performer and audience are obscured. In order to experience this melding of music with every day life, opportunities will be afforded for not only learning about music, but also for making music in class, from group singing and playing of a variety of instruments to informal performances by class members skilled in the performance of certain instruments and styles.

Class preparedness:

Participation and preparation are tantamount to success during this course. Students are expected to read all of the assigned material for each class beforehand and be prepared to engage in performance and discussion. This facet of the class will count as 10 percent of the overall grade. We will not plan formal lectures. Instead, we will determine what is of central importance during each chapter, by reading, listening and performing. This will in turn form the catalyst for our classroom discourse and we will pose questions and determine what additional material needs to exploration.

Punctual attendance:

Two *late* attendances (5 minutes) will be permitted. For each lateness beyond those two, one point will be subtracted from the term average for the final grade.

Two *absences* will be permitted. For each absence beyond those two, three points will be subtracted from the term average for the final grade. Any student with perfect attendance and punctuality will **receive** three bonus points to the final term average.

Exception: Any student who requests in advance to be excused to observe a religious holiday on the University calendar will be granted permission and counted present for the purpose of grading. All other matters of absenteeism should be addressed to the professor formally and presented with detailed document.

Cell phone use is not permitted during class.

Final project paper and presentation

Each student in the class is required to attend or view a video recording of a live performance featuring non-western music. It can be a proper concert, or a social event that uses music. We encourage you to choose a performance that draws on older traditions that use predominantly acoustic, i.e. non-electric, digital or sample based instruments. While contemporary traditions that use electronic technology are of equal value musically and culturally, these mediums can lead to a kind of musical hegemony that dilutes regional modes of expression, particularly in terms of tuning.

Live performance attendance will carry an additional 10 points toward the paper and presentation.

Presentation requirements:

- 10 minute presentation (powerpoint style or using notes and video/sound examples)

Essay requirements:

- 500 words or more
- must include bibliography (not part of the 500 word count)

Presentation/Essay content requirements:

- What style(s)/tradition(s) does the artist represent? Who are some other exponents of that style?
- geographic location
- culture of origin
- what is the setting and purpose of the performance?
- personal reasons for choosing this particular performance
- analysis of the music, tradition and sociological context of the performance using some of the key terms we've defined over the course of the semester
- be prepared to answer questions about your topic
- Extra Credit: if you are a musician (of course we all are in our own way), perform using your voice or instrument a composition or part of a composition within the style of the performance attended

Concert venues and sites include: the NJPAC, World Music Institute, Lincoln Center, Kean Stage, NY/NJ college and university concert series. I will address this topic in class for clarity.

Grading:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Class attendance and participation | 100 points |
| Exams (4) | 600 points |
| Student Report and Presentation | 300 points |
| Total | 1000 points |

Course Overview (Subject to change)

In addition to the following we will weave in guest musicians and student presentations.

- Unit 1: Chapters I through V, World Music Cultures Introduction, Pitch and Melody, Rhythm and Loudness, Texture, Timbre and Musical instruments
- EXAM 1 (on Chapters 1-5); Intro to the Middle East and North Africa
- Unit 2: Chapter VII, The Middle East and North Africa
- Team Review Games; Intro to Sub-Saharan Africa
- Unit 3: Chapter VI, Sub-Saharan Africa
- EXAM 2; Intro to Latin America
- Spring Break!
- Unit 4: Chapter XV, Latin America
- Team Review Games; Intro to the Indian Subcontinent
- Unit 5: Chapter IX, India
- EXAM 3; Intro to Indonesia
- April Chapter XII, Indonesia

- Team Review Games; remaining presentations
- Remaining presentations
- FINAL PAPERS DUE; Final Exam in-class review
- FINAL EXAM

Important Dates

For important dates, please consult the Academic Calendar via the following link:

<https://www.kean.edu/offices/registrars-office/academic-calendar>

Assessment:

*Describe the **assessments** that will be used to evaluate student learning with respect to the course objectives and how these assessments are weighted in determining the final grade. These may*

include quizzes, tests, exams, papers, projects, participation, performances/products, in-class exercise such as group work, discussion, simulations or labs. Inclusion of an explicit Grading Scale is optimal.

For GE courses, General Education Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) need to be assessed. Please refer to your course outline and/or the School of General Studies to see which SLO(s) pertain to your course. The GE SLOs are:

1. **Transdisciplinarity:** The ability to integrate knowledge and methods from different fields to address historical or contemporary questions.
2. **Critical Thinking:** The ability to utilize reflective analysis to draw informed conclusions.
3. **Quantitative Literacy:** The ability to utilize numerical data accurately and effectively to address real world problems.
4. **Communication Literacies:** The ability to speak and write effectively to convey and make an evidence-based argument.
5. **Information and Technology Literacy:** The ability to utilize information and communications technology critically and effectively in a rapidly changing world.
6. **Active Citizenship:** A commitment to lifelong civic engagement at a local, national and/or global level.
7. **Ethical Judgment and Integrity:** The ability to draw reasonable conclusions from ethical questions to guide personal conduct.
8. **Diversity:** A commitment to promote inclusivity in a diverse world.

For further information on General Education Student Learning Outcomes, see

<https://www.kean.edu/academics/college-liberal-arts/school-general-studies/general-education-program-assessment>

Academic Early Alert information will be provided to students by the instructor via KeanWise. Please see the 2020-2021 Undergraduate or Graduate Catalog for more information.

Policies

Academic Integrity policy:

All students must read and adhere to the University Academic Integrity Policy. Please refer to the statement online found at www.kean.edu/academicintegrity.html.

Class Recordings (Live Sessions/Collaborate)

In this class software may be used to record live class discussions. As a student in this class, your participation in live class discussions will be recorded. These recordings will be made available only to students enrolled in the class, to assist those who cannot attend the live session or to serve as a resource for those who would like to review content that was presented. All recordings will become unavailable to students in the class when the course is closed.

Students are not permitted to record (or download) the course experience. If a recording of the course is required for accommodation purposes students must make those arrangements with the Office of Accessibility Services. Students found to have recorded (or downloaded) course experiences without authorization are subject to review by the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

Privacy Statement

Assuring privacy among faculty and students engaged in online instructional activities helps promote open and robust conversations and mitigates concerns that comments made within the context of the class will be shared beyond the classroom. As such, recordings of instructional activities occurring in online classes may be used solely for internal class purposes by the faculty member and students registered for the course, and only during the period in which the course is offered.

Important University Policies and Information

All students and faculty should familiarize themselves with the **Cougar Restart Guide** which includes important virtual resources for students by Kean University via the following link:

<https://www.kean.edu/coronavirus-information/resources-current-prospective-students>

Students are responsible to review and understand the *University Academic Integrity Policy* available via the following link: <https://www.kean.edu/academic-integrity>

Instructors must indicate on the syllabus and/or individual assignment if the use of Kean University academic support services ([Tutoring and/or Writing Center](#)) is permitted for take home assignments/exams.

Students should review the *Student Code of Conduct*, as it discusses expectations of appropriate conduct in the classroom: <https://www.kean.edu/offices/community-standards-and-student-conduct/student-code-conduct>

Students are strongly encouraged to register for the University's emergency notification system (<http://www.kean.edu/campusalert>)

in order to be informed of campus emergencies, weather notices, and other announcements. Kean Ocean students would sign up via the following link:

<https://ocean.sendwordnow.com/LicensePage.aspx>

All students must have a valid Kean email account. For those who do not already have one, forms are available on-line at <https://www.kean.edu/offices/computer-and-information-services/ocis-forms> click on E-mail Account Request Form.

Diversity & Non-Discrimination Statement

Kean University is committed to establishing and maintaining a diverse campus community through inclusive excellence and equal opportunity. Kean's commitment to access and equity is designed to prepare each graduate to not only thrive, but climb higher in a diverse world. As an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution we work to support a campus-wide agenda to foster a community that both values and promotes the diversity and equity of all students, faculty, staff, administrators, and beyond. Kean adheres to the [*New Jersey State Policy Prohibiting Discrimination in the Workplace*](#); for more information on Kean's non-discrimination policy and procedures, and protected categories under the policy, please visit: <https://www.kean.edu/offices/affirmative-action>.

Americans with Disabilities Statement

Students with documented disabilities who may need instructional accommodations or special arrangements in the event of an evacuation should notify the instructor as soon as possible and no later than the second week of the term. Students may also contact The Office of Accessibility Services by phone at (908) 291-3137 or email accessibilityservices@kean.edu to discuss special needs, accommodations and arrangements.

Title IX

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities. Sexual harassment in any form will not be tolerated at Kean University. Sexual harassment by students should be reported to the Office of Affirmative Action Programs, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs or the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct immediately. Information about the University's Sexual Misconduct Policy may be found at the following: <https://www.kean.edu/offices/policies/sexual-misconduct-policy>.