

Course Syllabus



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Teaching Assistants:

Link to the course map with musical examples (to be updated)

Presentation of the course

Course objectives

The course is intended as an introduction to musical practices in the Latin American region, including the Caribbean and the Latin diaspora. The debates about defining what constitutes Latinity will be approached to the study of music in a large historical and geographical context. An accent will be put on the technical description of the musical language itself, associated with textual and visual analysis of a selection of clips.

Several regional styles will be examined as examples, and the students will learn to recognize their musical features, such as rhythm, melody, instrumentation, and structure. They will develop critical tools about their historical formation. Through musical analysis, the students will learn to extract from a musical clip's content the historical, geographical, and social context in which it has been produced and received, and to grasp the meaning that emanates from this music, or issues it discusses.

The course follows a topical outline. Important issues and themes will be discussed each week, rather than following a geographical or historical approach. As such, the student will be able to link musical practices in relation to the thematic they embed in a transnational and transhistorical understanding of their evolution.

Learning outcomes

Throughout the course, the students will learn to:

- Identify musical styles according to their place and time of production
- Recognize the specific musical features of these styles
- Discuss the social or historical outcomes that the music embeds
- Assert personal conclusions about a given theme in a group discussion
- Get a chance to perform some features of a chosen musical style
- Analyze a movie of their choice from a list with the intellectual tools developed throughout the course

Assignments and evaluations

For a total of 100 points:

- 2 group discussions on 8 points each: 1 for the introduction, 1 for the conclusion (2 x 8 = 16 points)
- For each of the three blocks, 4 assignments (from a list of 5) on 6 points each (4 x 3 x 6 = 72 points)
- One movie analysis to complete after block 3 (12 points)

Possible assignments for blocks 1, 2, and 3:

- One discussion board, including one original post (min 150 words) and two replies to peers (min 50 words)
- One live discussion on zoom at a determinate time (1 hour aprox)
- One video analysis (min 250 words)
- One writing sample responding to a scientific article on the topic (min 250 words)
- One video of your own performance, responding to a specific prompt (min 3 min total)

You will choose 4 assignments from the 5 above *for each block*. You can get extra credit by completing a 5th assignment in one of the blocks, for the half of the points of its value, only through previous agreement with your TA.

Deadlines:

Introduction: post on the discussion board due **June 24**, including the two answers to your peers.

Block I: two assignments (of your choice from the list above) due on **June 28**, and two assignments due **July 1**.

Block II: two assignments due **July 5**, and two due **July 8**.

Block III: two assignments due **July 12**, and two due **July 15**.

Film commentary due **July 19**.

Conclusion: post on the discussion board due **July 22**, including two answers to your peers.

Course organization and communication

Deadlines are strict and should be respected by everyone, in order to facilitate feedback and grading. Be considerate with your TA's, they have a significant workload on top of their own studies and research! Submitting your assignments on time helps the good flow of the course, its grading, and your comprehension of it.

However, if you can provide a document justifying missing an assignment, we may find some agreement on an extension. In case you have a DRC accommodation, we are happy to work on establishing

specific deadlines for you, so provide us the letter as early as possible in the quarter!

Any late submission can still receive half of the total points (including assignments related to the final paper). Please let your TA know when you submit anything late so that they check your work. They are not responsible for noticing a submission after the deadline. As always, communication is the key!

Besides, the unusual circumstances of remote instruction are challenging for everyone. Although you may have found your rhythm and habits by now, difficulties can arise at any time. For this reason, you will have to complete only 4 out of the 5 assignments for each block. And as stated above, you can get **extra credit** by completing a 5th assignment in one of the blocks, for the half of the points of its value. If you wish to do so, please make sure in advance with your TA which one of the assignments has to be counted as extra-credit. In any case, ALWAYS get in touch with your TA in advance. Don't wait until you are late to ask for a **late penalty waiver**, these won't be granted after the due date of each assignment.

If you have a doubt, a question, or if something is unclear to you, please let us know! Don't stay with your concern in mind. Here are three ways to communicate with the class:

- If you believe some of your peers may know the answer, you may use the discussion board created for this purpose. Only post precise questions and avoid personal conversations that may not be of interest of the whole class. Students may create alternative discussions outside of Canvas (Slack, Discord) but these are under your own responsibility.
- For questions concerning grades, deadline, assignment instructions, etc... please write to your TA. They will do their best to give you a quick answer. However, they are not required to respond over during the night or over the weekend. You may include me (your instructor) in copy, but this is not required.
- Finally, for questions about the content of the class or for deeper matters, you may contact me, your instructor, by email at mmichel2@ucsc.edu (<mailto:mmichel2@ucsc.edu>). Be aware that it may take me up to 24 hours to respond. Please always include your TA in copy.

Course Program

Introduction

June 20 to June 24

- What is music - what is commonly recognized as such?
- What are the Latin Americas?
- General themes: Mestizaje, whitenization, mediatization. The fear of "insidious" music.
- Some statements about the use of vocabulary, translations, and conduct lines.

=> How can you define Latin American music?

Block 1 - Before and during the Colony

June 24 to July 01

- Some knowledge of Pre-American music
- The music from the Iberian Peninsula
- Some ideas on African music
- Music during the colony: cultural miscegenation

=> Remnants of Indigenous, European, and African music in Latin American cultures

Block 2 - Nationalism, mass media, and internationalization

07-01 to 07-08

- Independence and the definitions of a nation
- National styles (Tango, Samba, Mariachis) and instruments (marimba, harp)
- Mass media producing and diffusing music (radio, cinema, TV)

=> the role of music in wowing unity and its limits in racially diverse nations

Block 3 - Contemporary issues around Latin music

07-08 to 07-15

- The globalization (and whitenization?) of Latin Music
- The political message(s) of music
- Latin America, music, and identity

=> The commercialization of Latin music: penetrating or subverting hegemony?

Film analysis

Before 07-18








- You will have to watch a full-length movie that deals with Latin America and its musics
- Then, submit a 500-words response, answering specific questions about what you observe in the movie and how it relates to what you have learnt during the class.

Conclusion

07-18 to 07-22

- Can you define again “Latin American music”?
- Are there some common traits?
- What have you learned about the history of the Latin Americas and how this history permeates the musical production from the region?

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Fri Jun 24, 2022	 Introduction - Discussion board (https://canvas.ucsc.edu/courses/55793/assignments/359338)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Jun 28, 2022	 Block I - Assignment 1 (https://canvas.ucsc.edu/courses/55793/assignments/358898)	due by 11:59am
	 Block I - Assignment 2 (https://canvas.ucsc.edu/courses/55793/assignments/358899)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jul 1, 2022	 Block I - Assignment 3 (https://canvas.ucsc.edu/courses/55793/assignments/358900)	due by 11:59am
	 Block I - Assignment 4 (https://canvas.ucsc.edu/courses/55793/assignments/358902)	due by 11:59am
Tue Jul 5, 2022	 Block II - Assignment 1 (https://canvas.ucsc.edu/courses/55793/assignments/359328)	due by 11:59pm
	 Block II - Assignment 2 (https://canvas.ucsc.edu/courses/55793/assignments/359329)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Fri Jul 8, 2022	 Block II - Assignment 3 https://canvas.ucsc.edu/courses/55793/assignments/359330	due by 11:59pm
	 Block II - Assignment 4 https://canvas.ucsc.edu/courses/55793/assignments/359331	due by 11:59pm
Tue Jul 12, 2022	 Block III - Assignment 1 https://canvas.ucsc.edu/courses/55793/assignments/359333	due by 11:59pm
	 Block III - Assignment 2 https://canvas.ucsc.edu/courses/55793/assignments/359334	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jul 15, 2022	 Block III - Assignment 3 https://canvas.ucsc.edu/courses/55793/assignments/359335	due by 11:59pm
	 Block III - Assignment 4 https://canvas.ucsc.edu/courses/55793/assignments/359336	due by 11:59pm
Tue Jul 19, 2022	 Film commentary https://canvas.ucsc.edu/courses/55793/assignments/359342	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jul 22, 2022	 Conclusion - Discussion board https://canvas.ucsc.edu/courses/55793/assignments/359339	due by 11:59pm
	 Syllabus Acknowledgement https://canvas.ucsc.edu/courses/55793/assignments/359694	