

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER

School of Performing Arts

Course syllabus for

MUSI 2300: Introduction to World Music (3 credit hours) Spring 2026 Full Distance Education Course

Professor: Dr. Mary Heiden

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Overview: A broad, initial encounter with major cultural centers of music throughout the world. Prior musical background is not necessary. This course is designed to conspicuously avoid “western” classical music and American popular musics.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students completing this course will be able to:

1. **Critical Thinking:** Compare the music and cultural values of one country or region with those of the United States in a short paper.
2. **Communication:** Present an analysis of the music of a selected country or region in a group slide project.
3. **Teamwork:** Collaborate on a group slide project exploring the characteristics of music from a single country or region.
4. **Social Responsibility:** Demonstrate an awareness of various cultural perspectives through a course journal.
5. Identify by listening a music’s title and country/region from the course text materials.
6. Compare and contrast countries as to the role of music in their own society and other cultures.
7. Discuss general trends regarding “hot spots” in world music research.

Required Materials:

1. Ebook with Learning Tools: ***Soundscapes: Exploring Music in a Changing World*, 3rd ed.**, by **Kay Kaufman Shelemay**, publ. by W.W. Norton and Co. ISBN: 978-1-324-08815-8
 - Available at the bookstore and here: <https://wwnorton.com/books/9781324088158>
 - Access to the ebook, ancillaries, playlists and quizzes will be via *Canvas*, but you need to purchase the Ebook with Learning Tools to have the appropriate code.
2. Computer with a good internet connection.

Class Format and Pacing:

This course will be taught online using Canvas modules and Norton’s Learning Tools. While the course is “asynchronous” (that is, not a live stream), you will have regular due dates each week to keep you on track. It is to your benefit to progress through modules and assignments in a consistent, regular way so that you avoid falling behind.

Evaluation of Students:

Midterm and Final Exams: Each of these exams covers approximately seven weeks of material and consist of approximately 50 to 60 questions (multiple-choice, true / false, matching, or short answer).

- *All tests are to be taken without any type of assistance other than your memory. This includes, but is not limited to: using notes, books, websites, apps, Canvas modules, or collaborating with others.*

Short Slide Project, "My Own Musical Culture." A four-to six-slide "musical ethnography" that gives an account of your own musical life and culture. Your completed slide show may be made available to your classmates for comments.

Group Slide Project: Using Google Slides, groups of 3-4 students will collaborate to create a "Slide Show" that is a summary of one particular country's musics. North American popular, classical, jazz and art music from western European countries are excluded from consideration for this project. Completed slide shows may be made available to your classmates for comments.

Student Paper – A four- to five-page paper (not including cover page and bibliography), providing an introduction to a region or country that is discussed in this class. This paper should cover the music's elements and role(s) in society, and contrast these aspects to those of your own home country or region.

Chapter Review Quizzes, Listening Quizzes, Discussions and a Course Journal will also be required.

Grading Procedures:

Online Discussions = 10%

Course Journal = 10%

Listening Quizzes = 10%

Chapter Quizzes = 10%

Short Slide Project = 10%

Group Slide Project = 15%

Student Paper = 15%

Midterm Exam = 10%

Final Exam = 10%

Grading Scale: A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F = 59% and below

Late Work and Make-Up Policy: All tests and assignments are due on the days indicated. Tests and assignments cannot be made up. Exceptions to this policy will only be granted in the case of serious illness with sufficient documentation and at the instructor's discretion.

Online Conduct/Demeanor: Students will demonstrate decorum and decency in all discussion posts and communications with students and the instructor. Further reading on Internet decorum can be found here: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>.

Communication: Students are required to regularly check their Patriot e-mail account and the class Canvas page.

Other: On our course Canvas site, on the "**Syllabus**" page, please see these links:

- "**Student Resources**" and "**University Policies and Information.**"

Artificial Intelligence:

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for

this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

AI is not permitted in this course at all. I expect all work students submit for this course to be their own. Doing your own work, without human or artificial intelligence assistance, is best for your efforts in mastering course learning objectives. Use of ChatGPT or any other artificial intelligence (AI) tools for any stages of the work process, including brainstorming, is forbidden. Deviations from these guidelines will be considered a violation of UT Tyler's Honor Code and academic honesty values.

Academic Integrity: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating, including plagiarism of any kind, will result in an automatic F for the course. If you quote in written work, be sure to give a citation.

For further information on plagiarism go to <https://www.plagiarism.org/article/what-is-plagiarism>

MUSI 2300 – Introduction to World Music – Spring 2026
Course Outline and General Schedule (*Subject to Change*):

| | Week of: | Topics and Ebook Readings from <i>Soundscapes</i> : | Graded Assignments (beyond regular weekly assignments in Canvas): |
|----|----------|---|--|
| 1 | Jan. 12 | Intro.: What is a Soundscape? Begin Part 1 – Listening to Music | |
| 2 | Jan. 19 | Ch. 1 – Sound | |
| 3 | Jan. 26 | Ch. 2 - Setting | |
| 4 | Feb. 2 | Ch. 3 - Significance | |
| 5 | Feb. 9 | Begin Part 2 – Transmitting Music | <i>Short Slide Project Due</i> |
| 6 | Feb. 16 | Ch. 4 – Music and Migration | |
| 7 | Feb. 23 | Ch. 5 – Music and Memory | |
| 8 | Mar. 2 | Ch. 6 – Music, Mobility, and the Global Marketplace | <i>Midterm Exam</i> |
| | | <i>March 9-13 – Spring Break!!</i> | |
| 9 | Mar. 16 | Begin Part 3 – Understanding Music | |
| 10 | Mar. 23 | Ch. 7 – Music and Dance | <i>Student Paper Due</i> |
| 11 | Mar. 30 | Ch. 8 – Music and Ritual | |
| 12 | Apr. 6 | Ch. 9 – Music and Politics | |
| 13 | Apr. 13 | Ch. 10 – Music and Identity | <i>Group Slide Project Due</i> |
| 14 | Apr. 20 | Epilogue | |
| 15 | Apr. 27 | | <i>Final Exam</i> |