



## **DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS**

### **COURSE OUTLINE – MU2640A3 WINTER 2014**

#### **TOPICS IN POPULAR MUSIC – MW 8:30AM-9:50AM, L214**

##### **>Popular Musics of the World<**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Geoffrey Whittall      **PHONE:** 780-539-2823  
**OFFICE:** L119      **E-MAIL:** gwhittall@gprc.ab.ca  
**OFFICE HOURS:** TR 1:00PM-2:20PM, and by appointment  
**WEBSITE:** <http://people.gprc.ab.ca/gwhittall>

**PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:** DD1021 or consent of the Instructor

#### **REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:**

Required Text: Popular World Music by Andrew Shahriari, (Prentice Hall, 2011).

Additional Readings will be provided via links or paper.

Optional: You may find it useful and interesting to acquire a recent edition of The Rough Guide to World Music to use as a guide for exploring the world's music.

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:** This course provides the opportunity to study several aspects of popular music, and the society and culture that surround it. Topics may include politics and propaganda; issues of gender, sexuality and race; identity and counterculture; music lyrics, and video analysis.

→ In 2014, our topic is Popular Musics of the World. There are many, many different types of popular music around the world. Many are syncretic fusions of traditional regional styles mixed with popular musics exported by the industries in Europe and North America. We will explore musics from different parts of Africa, South America and the Caribbean, South and East Asia, Australia, and (if time permits) Europe.

**CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS:** 3(3-0-0) 45 Hours

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** Lecture and Discussion

**OBJECTIVES (OPTIONAL):** Generally, you will become familiar with music styles, artists, and cultural contexts of several distinct popular musics. We will be not be exploring mainstream North American popular musics as any of the case studies in this course, but will refer to social, musical, and industrial aspects of N.A. musics as a tool of comparison in our discussions about the global industry, and musical/cultural imperialism. By the end of the course, you will be familiar with many different genres of popular music, understand how they are the products of their environments, and how they play a role in the identities of the cultures that have developed them.

**TRANSFERABILITY:** AU (MUSI 3XX (3)), UA (MUSIC 2XX (3) or AUMUS 2XX (3)), UC (MUHL 309), UL (MUSI 3200)

**\*\* Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

**GRADING CRITERIA:**

GRADING CONVERSION CHART			
Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Designation
A <sup>+</sup>	4.0	90 – 100	EXCELLENT
A	4.0	85 – 89	
A <sup>-</sup>	3.7	80 – 84	FIRST CLASS STANDING
B <sup>+</sup>	3.3	77 – 79	
B	3.0	73 – 76	GOOD
B <sup>-</sup>	2.7	70 – 72	
C <sup>+</sup>	2.3	67 – 69	SATISFACTORY
C	2.0	63 – 66	
C <sup>-</sup>	1.7	60 – 62	
D <sup>+</sup>	1.3	55 – 59	MINIMAL PASS
D	1.0	50 – 54	
F	0.0	0 – 49	FAIL
WF	0.0	0	FAIL, withdrawal after the deadline

## EVALUATIONS:

Class Contribution and Discussion Leadership	10%
Assignments	25%
Mid-term examination (likely March 03 or 05)	15%
Research project: Term Paper	25%
Final examination	25%

You will demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of an aspect of the course through a research project involving a formal paper and a class presentation. Topics should be chosen before February **12** in consultation with the instructor, and the written paper will be due by the *beginning* of class on April **09**. The paper must be a minimum of 2500 words (roughly 10 typed pages, depending on your font) in length, and must be typed. You must submit the term paper to be allowed to write the final exam.

Because much of the course will be organized as discussions, assigned readings must be done before the date for which they are due. Participation in class discussions will make up a significant part of all class sessions, and also comprise a portion of the final grade for this course.

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:** You should intend to attend every class. You should become familiar with pages 36-46 of the GPRC 2013-2014 Calendar. The term paper is an essential part of this course; you must submit a paper to be able to write the final exam. There are no opportunities for make-up work, so plan to submit your work before it is due. Extensions may be granted for medical, religious, or compassionate grounds; they will only be granted *before* the due date.

## STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Admission Guide at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at [www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/](http://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/) \*\*

\*\*Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

**COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:** Late term papers will not be accepted because they are tied to class presentations; to be fair to all students, everyone must submit their paper before the presentations begin.

The final exam will take place in the examination period following classes in April.