Music 561 – Ethnomusicology Area Studies: Brazil

SPRING 2014, Course #22141
Wednesdays, 4:00–6:40pm M-207

Instructor: Kevin Delgado, Ph.D.
Office: M-219
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 2:00–2:50 or by appointment
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This course offers a survey of select topics in Brazilian music with particular attention to the intersection between music and race, nationalism, religion, folklore, and gender. This course focuses on particular components of Brazilian music but also situates the music within Brazilian socio-cultural milieu.

Course Prerequisites:
Graduate or upper division students only; familiarity with music or ethnomusicology terminology. Non-musicians with background in related cultural or historical disciplines are welcome.

Required Materials:


Additional Course Readings: TBA (available on Blackboard as PDF file or hyperlink)

Course Media: [Blackboard or Library reserve for student check out]
Course Requirements:
All students will complete two short (five page) writing assignments and take a music listening exam based upon the course recordings disc. Undergraduate students and graduate students will undertake final projects of varying length, typically a research paper, though special performance, analysis, pedagogy, or hybrid music/presentation projects are encouraged in substitution for a research paper (instructor approval required). Because this class is structured as a seminar, all participants are responsible for discussion of course readings and a full 30% of the final course grade is earned through engaged, prepared attendance, including periodic informal presentations of selected readings and discussion questions or topics. The instructor will provide course recordings plus annotation with additional films and recordings made available in the SDSU Media Center.

*Recommended Course: Latin American Ensemble (Brazilian drumming emphasis this semester) (Music 370/570 Tues 4:00-5:50 M-020)

Course Requirements:
All students will complete two exams (recording and take-home essay based), with graduate students having a more substantive exam than undergraduates. All students will complete online journal or blog entries on select readings, generally to be assigned on weeks when there is no presentation or exam assignment. All students will participate in class presentations (media focused), and graduate students will be required to present select readings to the class. Because this class is structured as a seminar, all participants are responsible for discussion of course readings and a full 30% of the final course grade is earned through engaged, prepared participation. The instructor will provide course recordings plus annotation with additional films and recordings made available on Blackboard and in the SDSU Media Center.

Course Grade
The final course grade shall be calculated as follows:
Exams: 20%
Journals/blogs: 30%
Presentations: 10%
Final Project: 10%
Prepared Participation: 30%

Class Discussion/Prepared Participation
Though the instructor will lecture on certain topics and guide discussion, class discussion is crucial to any seminar. Come to class prepared to discuss all readings and any associated music listening or video assignments. Informed, collective discussions (with everyone involved) will truly be where the most important work of this course will occur. Regular, timely, prepared attendance is absolutely essential for this course and your performance in this area will be reflected in your final grade.
Graduate Students: Reading Presentation/Mini-Lecture
After the first introductory week, graduate students may be delegated part of the week's reading assignments (typically a single essay) to present as a means for opening and leading class discussion. Presenters will provide an overview of the assigned reading and lead class discussion. No written work will be handed in.

Please Note: All papers and take-home exams are due in class at the beginning of class. Late papers and exams lose 5% of their possible grade for each calendar day that they are late. Journal Entries are considered late once class begins.

General Class policies:
• This course is a seminar. All participants will be responsible for presentation and discussion of course materials. Regular prepared attendance is absolutely essential for success in this course. Class time is valuable: please do not be late.

• Instructor-generated materials are provided for the benefit of students. They are not intended to be republished. Republishing of instructor-generated materials, including lectures, slideshows, and other materials without consent is prohibited by university policy.

• If you are unable to participate in class due to an illness or family emergency, inform me as soon as possible. Please be prepared to provide documentation of the illness or emergency if you wish to have the absence excused.

• If you are unable to attend class because of a religious holiday, please inform me by email or phone at least two weeks prior to the exam so that all students affected can make-up the coursework simultaneously.

• Class discussions may involve a diversity of opinions; it is assumed that class discussions will be undertaken in a respectful manner.

• Instances of academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism on written work, and other forms of academic dishonesty) are taken very seriously and will be referred to the university for disciplinary action.

• If you are a student with a learning disability that requires special accommodations, please bring this to my attention within the first two weeks of class. Students must be registered with the Disabled Student Services office. It is the student's responsibility to initiate this process. If you suspect you have a learning disability or want more information, please stop by the Disabled Student Services office or visit their website.

• Please turn off or mute all personal communications devices when in class.