

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Discipline: Music

Fall 2008

MUSI 307Z: Music and Dance in the World's Religions

Upper Division

Faculty Name: Laxmi G. Tewari

Suggested Pre-requisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar introduces students to music and dance in the world's major religions as well as in the traditional religions of Africa and Native American traditions. The religious traditions covered include Shamanism, Animism, Sufism, Medicine persons (Healers), and trance. All of these oral traditions rely on chanting (singing), drumming and dancing.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will be exposed to musical practices that are the core of religious beliefs in specific religions. What makes traditional music and dance inseparable from worship and rituals? Students will learn how oral traditions fulfill an important role in many societies, by healing and blessing the common people, apart from established religions that have written philosophies and theologies.

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

IMPORTANT: The course outline is subject to change and adjustments. The instructor will enlist guest speakers, relevant to the topic of the course, from the on-board community and lecturers.

1. Handout detailing class assignments, reading, and grading policies.
 2. Outlining the major religions of the world (Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Islam, Sikhism, Shintoism, Christianity and Judaism) – **(Read, Beck, pages 1-87)**
 3. Major religions continued
 4. Major religions continued
 5. Major religions continued
 6. **First paper due** – discussion **(Read, Beck, 113-139)**
 7. Bhakti Tradition – the chanting practices
 8. Bhakti Tradition - mantra
 9. Sikhism **(Read, Beck, 141-167)**
 10. Buddhism **(Read, Beck, 169-189)**
 11. Sufism - musical ecstasy **(Read, Beck, 89-111)**
 12. Jainism -- **Second paper due**
 13. Summing up the musical world in South Asian religions
 14. Understanding Shamans, Pagans, Medicine Men, and Saints **(Read, Waitaker, *The Reluctant Shaman* by November 12th)**
 15. Shamanistic practices in South Asia
 16. Shamanistic practices in Southeast Asia
 17. Concept of trance
 18. Guest lecturer
 19. **Third paper due** – discussion on *The Reluctant Shaman*
 20. Sharing of in-port experiences (in preparation for diary submission)
 21. What all this means to YOU? Modern practices
 22. Influences of Sufism, Bhakti, and Buddhist practices in the world
 23. Two tracks of religious beliefs – Priests vs. Holy Beings
- Final Exam (diary due)**

FIELD COMPONENT

Each student is required to complete THREE practica (either Faculty Directed or Independent) from the following list:

SUGGESTED PRACTICA:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| BRAZIL: | Visit to Capoeira Angolan School (FDP) |
| SOUTH AFRICA: | Township Music (FDP) |
| VIET NAM: | Water Puppet Performance (FDP) |
| CHINA: | Beijing Opera School (FDP) |

Each student should take notes at each field trip writing a journal of activities observed, contact with musicians and audience with their names. Instructions regarding approach and field notes will be given prior to arriving to ports.

For each trip, 3-4 page paper detailing filed notes with explanation and an overall understanding gained from the trip. Each paper should include relevant photos, video clip, and other relevant materials.

An Independent Practicum may be developed as part of a regularly offered SAS trip. For this, student must meet with the instructor prior to arriving in the port-of-call to discuss his or her approach and objectives using SAS Independent Practicum Plan form.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Class attendance is important; for each absence, the student will lose 5 points

Papers and diary (25 points each) Total 100 points

100-95 points	A
94-90 points	A-
89-85 points	B+
84-80 points	B
79-75 points	B-
74-70 points	C+
69-65 points	C

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: Guy L. Beck (editor)
TITLE: Sacred Sound: Experiencing music in world religions
PUBLISHER: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, Ontario, Canada
ISBN #: ISBN-10-0-88920-421-7 (ISBN-13-978-0-88920-421-8)
DATE/EDITION: 2006 - Latest edition

AUTHOR: Kay Cordell Waitaker
TITLE: The Reluctant Shaman
PUBLISHER: Harper Collins
ISBN #: ISBN-0-06250953-5
DATE/EDITION: 1991 – latest edition