Doane College at Grand Island
MUS 335 – World Music

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Course Description
A survey/appreciation course designed to stimulate interest in the music of other cultures including that of Latin American, Middle Eastern, African, Asian, Indian, Caribbean, and Celtic countries. The course will also look at Native American music of the Southwestern United States. We will look at the inhabitants of these regions, their social and political structure, their cultural diversity, and the influences of each of these on their music. The course will also attempt to discern, through listening, the influences of this music on the music of the United States.

Required Text
None. A $15.00 course fee will be charged each student to allay costs of CDs, DVDs, and Videos.

Course Objectives
Music is a cultural phenomenon. It is a reflection of the history, hopes, dreams, fears, future of the people who produce it. In this course we will examine the ways that music functions within various cultures. You will study the music itself, the people who make it, the instruments they use, and the complex of ideas, behaviors, and processes that are involved in the production of this music. You will also consider the manner in which music emerges from a culture, as well as the influence that music has upon the evolution of a culture.

During the seven sessions a combination of lectures, video, listening exercises, and a hands-on project will be utilized to provide the students with an appreciation of a variety of world music styles and the cultures from which they sprang. Specific student outcomes will include:

- A realization the music is a multi-cultural phenomenon that did not spring from, nor did it reach its zenith in western European culture.
- An understanding and appreciation of world music from an ethno-musicological perspective.
- An understanding and appreciation of the diverse range of music found within individual cultural traditions around the world.
- An understanding of how different musical styles have evolved and developed through the unique context of historical and cultural processes that gave rise to them, as well as to comprehend how they continue to develop and transform in a contemporary world defined by large-scale processes of globalization, mass media, and electronic communications.
Course Grading
The final course grade will be composed of the following:

- Listening/Identification Exam: 25 points
- Group Project: 65 points
- Attendance and Class Participation: 10 points

Projected Grade Distribution will be as follows:
- A: 90 – 100+ points
- B: 80 - 89 points
- C: 70 - 79 points
- D: 60 - 69 points

Listening/Identification Exam:
This exam will require that the student be able to identify music samples by their ethnic roots, country of origin, and social context. (It sounds far more complicated than it really is – I promise!)

Group Project:
Each student in the group will create a musical instrument from simple household items and use the instrument to accompany a song, played by the group, from a selected culture. The students in the group will share with the class information about the country of origin, culture, and social context of the song being accompanied.

Class Participation:
Discussion is an important part of this class and the students’ input is valuable to the entire class. Class participation is required. Students are expected to be present at each class session and to make constructive contributions to the class discussion. In order to involve students who might be hesitant to participate in class discussions, the instructor will randomly call on students to comment upon or give insight into issues being discussed by the class.

Attendance Policy:
Attendance at class is mandatory. Students missing class for any reason are not excused from completing all class assignments. Exams missed due to absence may not be made up unless prior arrangement has been made with the instructor or, at the sole discretion of the instructor, extraordinary circumstances forced missing of the exam. All exams must be completed prior to final grades being released. Because the term involves only eight (8) class sessions, missing a single class can make it difficult to stay up with course content. While no grade penalty will be assessed for one (1) absence, it is highly recommended that students attend all class sessions. A second absence will result in failure of the course.

The course outline is subject to change based upon class progress. Doane College makes all decisions regarding the cancellation of classes due to bad weather. In the event of a cancelled class, assignments carry over to the next class time.
Course Outline

Session Number 1 – Elements of Music/Celtic Music
  Course Introduction
  Personal Introductions
  Basic Music Theory
  Beyond River Dance – Celtic Society and its Music

Session Number 2 – Latin Music
  “Come on, shake your body baby, do the Conga…”
  Latin Culture and Its Music

Session Number 3 – Middle Eastern Music/Asian Music
  Islam and Music
  Arabian Nights – Middle Eastern Culture and Its Music
  East, Central, and Southeast (Sounds like L.A., but it’s not.)
  Asian Culture and Its Music

Session Number 4 – African Music
  The Heart of Rock and Roll
  African Culture and Its Music

Session Number 5 – Indian Music
  Bangles, Beatles, and Bollywood
  Indian Culture and Its Music

Session Number 6 – Island Music/World Music Influence
  Laid Back Isolation
  Island Culture and Its Music
  “It’s a Small World After All” – The Influence of World Music

Session Number 7 – Native American Music
  Native Americans – A Sad Political Journey
  Drum Circle – Native American Culture and Its Music

Session Number 8 – World Music Jam
  Listening Exam
  Project Presentations

Academic Integrity Policy
The Doane College Academic Integrity Policy as outlined in the Lincoln/G.I. Student Handbook will be adhered to in this class. In the course of your preparation for papers, examinations, projects, and presentations you will be asked to work with others and/or rely on the opinions, writings, or research of others. This is perfectly acceptable and in most instances is expected. However, when you use another’s words, ideas, or opinions – cite it! I fully expect that your ideas will from time to time spring from the ideas of others. Let me know when you are using those ideas, and whose ideas they are. The use of other sources without proper citation is unfair to the source and to you. It will result in failure of the project, examination, or paper in which the reference was used and will possibly result in failure of the course.