



SCHOOL OF ART Spring 2023

MUS/ART 245

Wednesday 14h00-16h55

Salle Pignol

3 credits

Prof. Idit Gezin

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MUSIC AND SOUND OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the students, through presentation, active listening, engaging in musical activities and creative workshops, to a selected variety from the Mediterranean music repertoire. It explores music and sound within their artistic, social, cultural, geographical, historical and political contexts and shifts; everyday life, work, immigration, exile and colonialism, as well as the contact and influence among different societies. The course is *not* destined only for students who have a prior musical background, it is open to all students.

PREREQUISITE

- One semester of an introductory course on the history of Europe or the history of the MENA region (Middle East North Africa).
- Students must have successfully completed two semesters of college.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To analyze folk songs, popular and scholarly music in their artistic and functional contexts.
- To recognize and identify musical elements such as rhythm, structure, mode, and instrumental/vocal ensemble.
- To raise sensibility to musical and sound creative techniques as ways of expression.
- To raise socio-political issues in relation to the presented topics and the selected musical variety of the Mediterranean.

LEARNING OUTCOME

Upon completing the course, students should be able to:

- Recognize particular Mediterranean music styles and forms, as well as their geographical and historical contexts.
- Be an active and critical music listener.
- Use the techniques experimented during the course as an artistic tool of expression.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

- Lectures, workshops, listening, and discussions.
- Engagement in musical activity (vocal, rhythmical, dance/movement and performance practice)
- Presentations (written, performed & recorded)
- Musical Final Project

PRIMARY TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIAL

- Adam J. Goldwyn and Renée M. Silverman, *Mediterranean Modernism: Intercultural Exchange and Aesthetic Development*, 2016
- Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities*, 1978.
- Additional reading material, videos and recordings will be provided by the instructor.

EVALUATION AND GRADING

- Attendance in class and participation 50%
- Written, performed & recorded Assignments 30%
- Final Project 20%

ATTENDANCE

- Students are required to attend all classes. Attendance will be part of the final grade.
- Unexcused absences have a negative impact on the final grade. Each unexcused absence above two will **lower the final** grade by a half-letter grade.
- Excused absences = absences linked to IAU excursions; sickness (a medical certificate is **required**); emergencies.
- You **MUST** email the instructor in case you are going to miss a class or arrive late.
- More than **15-minute** late arrival = **absence**
- More than **15-minute** early departure = **absence**

GRADING SYSTEM

A	95-100%
A-	90-94%
B+	88-89%
B	84-87%
B-	80-83%
C+	78-79%
C	74-77%
C-	70-73%
D+	68-69%
D	64-67%
D-	60-63%
F	59-0%

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

This Schedule is Subject to Change

- WEEK 1** **Introduction + Presentation of the Syllabus and Course.**
- What defines the Mediterranean and how can we define Mediterranean music?
 - **Reading:** Peregrine Horden, Nicholas Purcell, 2000, *The Corrupting Sea: A Study of Mediterranean History*, Wiley-Blackwell. Chapter 1.
- WEEK 2** **Folk Music Series I - Introduction**
- The role and function of folk music; social context, genres, technics and characteristics.
 - Vocal practice workshop.
 - **Reading:** Alan Lomax, *Musical style and Social context*, 1959; Simon Frith, *The Discourse of World Music*, 2000.
- WEEK 3** **Folk Music Series II - The Life Cycle**
- Traditional lullaby, children's songs and Lamentations from different regions of the Mediterranean.
 - Vocal practice and creative workshop.
- WEEK 4** **Folk Music Series III - Work and Exile**
- Work songs, Protest songs, Partenze, Immigration and Exile music, their purpose, themes, techniques, and context.
 - Vocal practice and creative workshop.
- WEEK 5** **Folk Music Series IV - Celebration Music and Dance Workshop.**
- Traditional folk dance forms of selected regions and cultures.
- WEEK 6** **Classical Music - Northern Mediterranean Classical Tradition**
- Understanding the Mediterranean origins of Western Classical Music and introduction to western music theory.
 - Watch : Leonard Bernstein, *The Unanswered Question*, 1973
 - 1-Musical Phonology <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8fHi36dvTdE>
- WEEK 7** **Classical Music - Southern Mediterranean Classical Tradition/Arab Classical Music**
- Understanding the Mediterranean origins of Arab Classical Music and introduction to its theory and forms.
 - Watch: *Understanding Arabic Music*, with Simon Shaheen & Qantara, Kennedy Center Education Digital Learning
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6ZEcFSChaU>

WEEK 8 Local Series I - Tu vuò fa l'Americano - Spanish-French-Italian Relation with Western Anglophone Pop Tradition

- From French chanson and Neapolitan songs, Italian Cantautori, French singer song writers, Catalan Nova Canço, Electro pioneers, The Yéyés and Umlatori, Gainsbourg, Spaghetti movie music and Italo-disco and French touch to today's pop and electro music scene.
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WEEK 9 Local Series II - France - Algeria Colonial History Told in Music

- Algerian traditional and rebellion forms of music.
- The music of the war; freedom, resistance and nationalism and its resonance in present-day Algerian-French popular and scholar music.
- Reading/watching material will be communicated during the course.

WEEK 10 Local series III - Israel and Palestine

- Palestinian musical tradition.
- Israel - the battle of musical identities. Present time musical conflicts and collaborations.
- Reading/watching material will be communicated during the course.

WEEK 11 Sound Workshop I - The Art of Capturing the Sound of Everyday Life and the surroundings, "Music Concrète" and electroacoustic music.

- Introduction to basic DAW functions and techniques.
- Reading/watching material will be communicated during the course.

WEEK 12 Sound Workshop II - Creative Atelier

WEEK 13 Sound Workshop III - Students' Presentations