

**MUH 5505: INTRODUCTION TO ETHNOMUSICOLOGY**  
**Section: REG1**  
**Course Syllabus**

*Academic Term*

Fall 2023

*Class Period*

Mondays – Period 9-11, 4:05pm-7:05pm

*Location*

MUB 0146

*Instructor*

Dr. Tim Murray

Office: MUB 344

Email: [timothymurray@ufl.edu](mailto:timothymurray@ufl.edu)

Phone: 352-278-4918

Office Hours:

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

This graduate seminar explores ethnomusicological research and its relationship to the disciplines of folklore, anthropology, linguistics, and historical musicology. The objective is to introduce students to field research, representational analysis of sound and social life, interpretative techniques, and the use of oral, written, and media sources. The class is organized around a series of topics including field research; transcription; sound as a symbolic system; commodification and consumption; music and globalization; music and identity formation, music and gender; and media, technology, and popular music. For each topic a list of required and optional readings is given (see **Course Calendar**) from which I will make specific assignments. Each student is expected to write weekly commentaries on the readings and come to class prepared to discuss the readings/topic at hand. Class discussions will be organized and led by the instructor and by students on selected topics.

**Course Objectives**

**COURSE COMPONENTS AND REQUIREMENTS**

- seminar-style class discussions
- weekly reading assignments
- weekly written commentaries on reading assignments
- Student led discussions of individual chapters/articles
- Student team led discussions of weekly reading assignments
- local ethnographic fieldwork project
- short ethnographic narrative/vignette based on fieldwork experience
- two book/literature reviews (5 pp. each)

- book review 1 is on the Turino text
- book review 2 is on a single-authored musical ethnography published in the last 10 years of your choice (due Nov 21, appx. 5 pages. Book must be chosen by Oct. 23)
- oral presentation of final project on Dec 5 (conference style i.e. prepare a 20 minute presentation with 10 minutes for discussion)
- final paper of around 15 pages (abstract of no more than 250 words to be submitted in advance on Nov 13) (final papers due Dec 11)

## WRITTEN WORK, HOMEWORK, AND FIELDWORK

- *Reading observations*: For each course topic we cover, each student is required to write a summary/commentary covering the entire set of readings for that week. These are to be uploaded to the course Canvas website by 12:00 A.M. the night before class.
- two book/literature reviews on approved topics,
- one term Paper,
- short fieldwork project (may be a stand-alone project or related to your term paper). This will result in an in-class presentation of individual projects and include at least one ethnographic vignette to be developed from fieldnote observations.
- Additionally, there will be a few short homework assignments during the course of the semester.

## Weekly Observation/Response Papers

- For each course topic we cover, students are required to submit a written summary/commentary of around 500 words *for each set of weekly readings* the evening before the topic is discussed to the course canvas page. There are many reasons for requiring these, not the least of which will be to generate in class discussion. Not only will they generate useful, original annotated bibliographic information for later use (HINT, HINT, HINT...) but also serve as useful study guides for master's level oral and PhD level comprehensive exams.
- These should include:
  - A narrative outline of each reading's main points, primary arguments, and conclusions. These should contain three thought questions for in class discussion. (**PRO TIP**: Structure your response papers with an outline first and then save that outline separately for use in class. *It is far easier and faster to draw on a bulleted list of key points during class discussions than it is to hunt for their exact location in a text, during class discussion.* Also, this should go without saying, but *do not wait until the hour before class to compose your responses.*
  - Critical reactions to the author's thesis or supporting evidence. Did you agree or disagree with the article's premise? Did you take issue with the author's argument? Why?
  - Anything you think the author overlooked or failed to consider.
  - Any conceptual material that connects with your own research interests
  - Anything that confused you

- Any connections the reading stimulated between the subject at hand and concepts dealt with in another class
- Late response papers will not be accepted

## CLASS POLICIES

### Attendance

Please show up to class on time. Class sessions will be conducted as seminars so your participation is essential. In the case of absence due to a medical or other types of emergency please inform the instructor as soon as possible. Because this class meets only one time per week, one absence is equivalent to missing an entire week of MWF class periods.

### Use of Electronics

Please do not multitask, become distracted or otherwise engaged by your phone or other electronic devices during class. All phone calls received in class, will be answered by me, personally.

### Academic Honesty

Welcome to the singularity and the dawn of a new technological, A.I. driven era. Please keep in mind that by completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: *“I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion for the University.”* The instructor of this course fully endorses this statement and will not tolerate academic dishonesty.

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu> during the last two or three weeks of the semester.

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

- Emerson Robert M Rachel I Fretz and Linda L Shaw. 2011. *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes* Second ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Post, Jennifer C, ed. 2006. *Ethnomusicology: A Contemporary Reader*. New York: Routledge. **(Free online through UF Libraries)**
- Post, Jennifer C, ed. 2018. *Ethnomusicology: A Contemporary Reader, Volume 2*. New York: Routledge. **(Free online through UF Libraries)**
- Rice Timothy. 2014. *Ethnomusicology: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press. **(Free online through UF Libraries)**
- Turino, Thomas. 2008. *Music as Social Life: The Politics of Participation*. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press.

## ADDITIONAL READINGS

### NOT REQUIRED BUT EXTREMELY USEFUL REFERENCE TEXTS

- Bruno Nettl, *The Study of Ethnomusicology: Thirty-Three Discussions* (3rd edition, University of Illinois Press, 2015) (eBook available at UF)
- Ruth Stone and Harris Berger, editors, *Theory for Ethnomusicology: Histories, Conversations, Insights* (2nd edition, Routledge, 2019) (eBook available at UF)

### **ADDITIONAL READINGS**

Journal articles and chapters from books will be assigned in order to expand the materials found in the texts—it is the student’s responsibility for finding and downloading or printing each week’s additional readings for in-class and out-of-class-use. Most of these readings can be accessed online through CANVAS\E-LEARNING. Hard copies may also be available reserve in the Architecture and Fine Arts Library. In most cases, assigned readings in the form of journal articles and book chapters may be found in online through the UF Libraries (link to Music Library Guide: <https://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/c.php?g=147582&p=969589>). In some cases, readings will be posted to the course Canvas webpage.

### **COURSE GRADING**

Grades will be based on the quality of your class participation, written work, homework assignments, and oral presentations with the following percentages assigned:

- Book/Literature Reviews (2) 20% (10% x 2)
- Written Weekly Commentaries 15%
- Research Paper/Oral Presentation 30%
- Student led class discussions/class Participation 15%
- Fieldwork Project/Homework Assignments 20%

### **GRADING SCALE**

Grading Scale:

94-100 = A  
 91-93 = A-  
 88-90 = B+  
 85-87 = B  
 82-84 = B-  
 79-81 = C+  
 76-78 = C  
 73-75 = C-  
 70-72 = D+  
 66-69 = D  
 67-68 = D-  
 65 ↓ = E

Information on current UF grading policies and grade points may be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

### **PRELIMINARY DUE DATES**

- Book review 1: September 18
- Transcription assignment due: October 16

- In class student presentations of field work projects: September 25
- Final paper abstract and proposal: November 13
- Book review 2 November: 27

Term paper December: 11

### Student Privacy

- There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regard to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see the Notification to Students of FERPA Rights.

### Campus Resources

- Using UF Libraries
  - The UF Libraries are probably the most valuable resource on campus.
  - Basics of UF Library use may be found at: <https://uflib.ufl.edu/using-the-libraries/>
  - Find Help or Research Assistance <https://uflib.ufl.edu/find/ask/>
- Subject Specialist Librarians: UF maintains full-time librarians for nearly every single major at UF. All subject specialist librarians are available for one on one consultations and each maintains an online library guide with information on accessing UF's collections (<https://uflib.ufl.edu/specialists/>). Possible areas interest to students of musicology and ethnomusicology include: Anthropology, African American Studies, Latin American studies, Arabic Studies, Asian Studies, Arts in Medicine, Jewish Studies, Digital Humanities, Folklore, and Gender Studies.

### Health and Wellness

- If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website (<https://umatter.ufl.edu/>) to refer or report a concern, and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

### Counseling and Wellness Center

- Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website (<https://counseling.ufl.edu/>) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis and non-crisis services.

### Student Health Care Center

- Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website (<https://shcc.ufl.edu/>)

### University Police Department

- Visit the UF Police Department website (<https://police.ufl.edu/>) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

### E-learning technical support

- <https://elearning.ufl.edu/>

- 352-392-4357 (select option 2)
- or e-mail to [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu)

Writing Studio <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio>

- One on one help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

UF International Center Ethnography Lab

- <https://internationalcenter.ufl.edu/ufs-international-ethnography-lab>
- Location: 3323 Turlington Hall
- Public Hours: MWF 1:00 – 4:00PM & TR 2:00 – 5:00PM (lab members can use the space at any time) COURSE CALENDAR (Subject to Changes)
- Contact: Dr. Rebecca Hanson, at [r.hanson@ufl.edu](mailto:r.hanson@ufl.edu).