

Sul Ross State University
Music of Mexico-MUS 3310; MAS 3310; MUS 5319
Spring 2016

Professor: Mary-Elizabeth Thompson, D.M.A.
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Office: FAB 206A
Phone: (432) 837-8130
Class Meetings: MWF 11:00-11:50am, Lawrence Hall 201
Office Hours: TBA

Description

This course is a survey of a variety of music traditions from Mexico and the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. The music studied will include folk, popular, art, and contemporary/classical. Throughout the course, articles and discussions about how the socio-political climate of Mexico has affected its music will also be addressed.

Objectives

No prior musical training is required for this course.

After completing this course students should be able to:

- use basic terminology to describe musical elements from a variety of Mexican music traditions
- demonstrate a broad knowledge of the musical time periods of Mexico by including examples of major works and composers
- gain representative knowledge of musical styles, genres, and traditions from Mexican communities, both in Mexico and the U.S.-Mexico borderlands
- engage with a variety of scholarly writings about various topics of Mexican musical practices
- develop listening skills and critical thinking through active engagement with the music discussed in class

Required Materials

- 3 ring binder notebook
- pencil/pen for taking notes

*No textbook is required for this course however, you will be expected to read/listen to all materials, musical scores, and recordings distributed or assigned by the instructor.

Class Attendance and Participation

- **Absences will be excused for medical emergencies or serious personal conflicts, but prior approval or documentation is required.**
- A tardy of no more than 10 minutes will equate to one third of an absence.
- A tardy of more than 10 minutes will be recorded as an absence. (I still encourage you to come to class if you'll be more than 10 minutes late- you will be less likely to miss information that way.)
- Please call or email if you are going to be absent or tardy to class. Call *prior* to the start of class.
- The structure of this course is that of a seminar. Therefore, it is the responsibility of all students to contribute to each class meeting by paying attention, asking relevant questions, and giving constructive feedback when called upon. These factors will all be considered when determining the class participation grade. **With that in mind; the use of cell phones, pagers, beepers, iPods, iPads and any other personal electronic devices are strictly prohibited by students.** If you are found to be using any of these devices during class, I will **PERMANENTLY** take possession of the device and you will be asked to leave class for the day, counting it as an unexcused absence.
- As the nature of this course is based on the participation of both students and the professor, attendance in class is mandatory. **Six absences will result in you being dropped from the course with a grade of "F"**. Upon the 3rd unexcused absence you will be dropped one letter grade. Upon

the 4th unexcused absence you will be dropped another letter grade. And upon the 5th unexcused absence you will be dropped yet another letter grade.

Grading Procedures

Your final grade will be determined by the following formula:

1. Attendance and participation 20%
2. Homework and Assignments 50%
3. Final Project 30%

--No late assignments will be accepted without a doctor's note or professor's prior approval.

Professional Communication Policy

- All communication with me should be done either in person, by office phone, or through email.
- You are expected to check your email on a regular basis.

Students with Disabilities

- Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartze in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-171, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8203. Email: mschwartze@sulross.edu.