

Seminar: Introduction to Ethnomusicology

Fall 2022

Professor Sarah Politz (spolitz@arts.ufl.edu)

Mondays 4:05-7:05 pm, MUB 146

Office hours: Via Zoom, by appointment

Course description: This course introduces the history, methods, and critical tools of ethnomusicology, with emphasis on ethnography, cultural theory, and the analysis of performance. The class highlights the interdisciplinary nature of the field, for example through connections with anthropology, historical musicology, music technology, gender studies, cultural studies, and postcolonial theory, considering their implications for research.

Assignments:

- Weekly response papers (about 500 words each) submitted online at midnight the day before class (you may skip these the weeks that you lead discussion)
- Lead two class discussions in collaboration with a classmate
- Field notes (due Oct 3)
- Short ethnographic narrative (due Oct 17, appx. 4 pages)
- Transcription of provided piece (due Oct 24)
- Book review of a single-authored musical ethnography published in the last 10 years (due Nov 21, appx. 5 pages. Book must be chosen by Oct. 31)
- Final paper of around 15 pages, double spaced, on an ethnomusicological topic of your choosing (abstract to be submitted in advance on Nov 14) (final papers due Dec 12)
- Oral presentation of the final project on Dec 5 (appx. 20 minutes)

Required texts: All readings will be posted to the course website.

Background Reading (not required):

Bruno Nettl, *The Study of Ethnomusicology: Thirty-Three Discussions* (3rd edition, University of Illinois Press, 2015) ([eBook \(Links to an external site.\)](#)) ([Links to an external site.](#)) available at UF)

Ruth Stone and Harris Berger, editors, *Theory for Ethnomusicology: Histories, Conversations, Insights* (2nd edition, Routledge, 2019) ([eBook \(Links to an external site.\)](#)) ([Links to an external site.](#)) available at UF)

Course Schedule (subject to change)

August 29 – What Is Ethnomusicology?

Timothy Rice, 2014, “Defining Ethnomusicology” and “A Bit of History,” in *Ethnomusicology: A Very Short Introduction*.

September 5 – No class, Labor Day

September 12 – Ethnomusicology, Histories, and Difference

**What area or topic in ethnomusicology are you most interested in following this semester? Make an appointment with Prof. Politz to discuss possible semester paper topics.*

Deborah Wong, 2006, “Ethnomusicology and Difference,” *Ethnomusicology*

Steven Loza, 2006, “Challenges to the Eurocentric Ethnomusicological Canon: Alternatives for Graduate Readings, Theory, and Method,” *Ethnomusicology*

Bruno Nettl, 2010, *Nettl's Elephant: On the History of Ethnomusicology*, introduction, chapters 1-2

For reference: Guido Adler, 1885 [1981], “The Scope, Method, and Aim of Musicology,” trans. Erica Mugglestone, *Yearbook for Traditional Music*.

Recommended: Kwabena Nketia, 1986, “African Music and Western Praxis: A Review of Western Perspectives on African Musicology,” *Canadian Review of African Studies*.

September 19 – Doing Musical Ethnography: Participant-Observation, Virtual Ethnography

Gregory Barz and Timothy Cooley, 2008, *Shadows in the Field*, introduction

Timothy Rice, 2014, "Conducting Research," in *Ethnomusicology: A Very Short Introduction*.

Sarah Pink, et al, 2015, "Ethnography in a Digital World," in *Digital Ethnography: Principles and Practices*.

Liz Pryzbylski, 2020, "Introduction to Hybrid Ethnography," in *Hybrid Ethnography: Online, Offline, and In Between*.

September 26 – Performing Ethnomusicology

**Prior to September 26, attend one rehearsal of a world music ensemble at UF (virtually if necessary), or another music event, in person or online. Take field notes recording your observations. They will be due in class next week.*

David Locke, 2004, "The African Ensemble in America," in *Performing Ethnomusicology*

Sumarsam, 2004, "The Gamelan from Java to Wesleyan," in *Performing Ethnomusicology*

Mantle Hood, 1960, "The Challenge of Bi-Musicality," *Ethnomusicology*

Ellen Koskoff, 1998, "What Do We Want to Teach When We Teach Music? One Apology, Two Short Trips, Three Ethical Dilemmas, and Eighty-Two Questions," in *Rethinking Music*

October 3 – Early Ethnomusicology: Comparison, Classification, Preservation, Anthropology

**Field notes due*

Nettl, 2010, chapters 4-5

Alan Merriam, 1964, *The Anthropology of Music*, pp. 3-35

Nettl, 2006, "We're On the Map: Reflections on SEM in 1955 and 2005," *Ethnomusicology*

Erich von Hornbostel and Curt Sachs, 1961, "The Classification of Musical Instruments" (trans. Baines and Wachsmann), *The Galpin Society Journal*

Ellis, Alexander, 1885, "On the Musical Scales of Various Nations," *Journal of the Society of Arts* (optional, for reference)

October 10 – Ethnomusicology Among the Disciplines: Ethnotheory, Structuralism, Anthropology, Social Science

John Blacking, 1973, *How Musical is Man?* (eBook available online)

Timothy Rice, 1987, "Toward the Remodeling of Ethnomusicology," *Ethnomusicology*

Steven Feld, 1988, "Aesthetics as Iconicity of Style (Uptown title); or, (Downtown title) Lift-up-over-sounding: Getting into the Kaluli Groove," *Yearbook for Traditional Music*

October 17 – Mediation: Ethnomusicology, Changing Technologies, and Popular Music

**Revisit your field notes and create a short ethnographic narrative based on them of about 4 pages. Submit to the assignments page before class.*

Rene Lysloff and Leslie Gay, Jr., 2003, "Introduction: Ethnomusicology in the Twentieth-Century," in *Music and Technoculture*

Gabriel Solis, 2017, "Music Technology in Ethnomusicology," in the *Oxford Handbook of Technology and Music Education*

Tricia Rose, 1994, "Soul Sonic Forces: Technology, Orality, and Black Cultural Practice in Rap Music" in *Black Noise: Rap Music and Black Culture in America*

October 24 – Musical Transcription and Analysis

**Transcription assignment due*

Nettl, 1983 [2005], "I Can't Say a Thing Until I've Seen the Score: Transcription," in *The Study of Ethnomusicology: Thirty-Three Issues and Concepts*

Ter Ellingson, 1992, "Transcription," in *Ethnomusicology: An Introduction* (ed. Helen Meyers)

Charles Seeger, 1958 [1977], "Prescriptive and Descriptive Music Writing," *The Musical Quarterly*

Michael Tenzer, 2006, Introduction to *Analytical Studies in World Music*

October 31 – Thinking About Theory in Ethnomusicology: Historiography, Practice Theory, Agency, Social Structure

**Book choice due for review*

Jean and John Comaroff, 1991, *Of Revelation and Revolution*, introduction

Ingrid Monson, 2007, *Freedom Sounds: Jazz and Civil Rights Call Out to Africa*, introduction

Timothy Rice, 2010, "Ethnomusicological Theory," *Yearbook for Traditional Music*.

Gabriel Solis, 2012, "Thoughts on an Interdiscipline: Music Theory, Analysis, and Social Theory in Ethnomusicology," *Ethnomusicology*.

November 7 – Ethnomusicology, Gender, and Sexuality

Sherry Ortner, 1996, *Making Gender: The Politics and Erotics of Culture*, introduction

Ingrid Monson, 1997, "Music and the Anthropology of Gender and Cultural Identity," *Women & Music*

Sarah Hankins, 2014, "Queer Relationships With Music and an Experiential Hermeneutics for Musical Meaning," *Women & Music*

Peter McMurray, 2020, "On Serendipity, Or, Toward a Sensual Ethnography," in *Queering the Field: Sounding Out Ethnomusicology*.

November 14 – Identity, Globalization, Formations of the Self, Music and Race

**Final paper abstract due*

Turino, 2008, "Habits of the Self," in *Music as Social Life: The Politics of Participation*

Rice, 2010, "Reflections on Music and Identity in *Ethnomusicology*," *Музикологија (Musicology)*.

Radano and Bohlman, 2000, introduction to *Music and the Racial Imagination*

Deonte Harris, 2022, "On Race, Value, and the Need to Reimagine Ethnomusicology for the Future," *Ethnomusicology*

November 21 – Ethnomusicology, Postcolonialism, Representation, Experience

**Book review due*

Dipesh Chakrabarty, 2000, *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference*, introduction

Thomas Solomon, 2012, "Where is the postcolonial in ethnomusicology?" in *Ethnomusicology in East Africa: Perspectives from Uganda and Beyond*.

Timothy Rice, 2003, "Time, Place, and Metaphor in Musical Experience and Ethnography," *Ethnomusicology*

**Thanksgiving break*

November 28 – Applied Ethnomusicology

Titon, 1992, "Music and the Public Interest," *Ethnomusicology*

Jeff Titon, 2015, "Applied Ethnomusicology: A Descriptive and Historical Account," in *The Oxford Handbook of Applied Ethnomusicology*.

Svanibor Pettan, 2015, "Applied Ethnomusicology in the Global Arena," in *The Oxford Handbook of Applied Ethnomusicology*

Klisala Harrison, 2014, "The Second Wave of Applied Ethnomusicology," *MUSICultures*

December 5 – Student presentations

Final papers due *Monday, December 12, 5 pm* via Canvas

Health information:

In response to COVID-19, the following practices are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment: <https://coronavirus.uflhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/> ([Links to an external site.](#)). Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.
- The University of Florida recommends, but does not require, wearing masks on campus. Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Following these practices is our responsibility as Gators.
- Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom.
- If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus.
- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.
- Continue to regularly visit coronavirus.UFHealth.org and coronavirus.ufl.edu for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.

Class Policies

Please do not multitask during class, become distracted by your phone or other devices, browse the web, etc. You should arrive on time, and notify Dr. Politz if you need to be absent, late, or leave early.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

For UF grading policies, including grades and grade points, please see here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their

Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/> ([Links to an external site.](#)) ([Links to an external site.](#)).

Academic Resources:

Technical support (including Zoom and internet trouble), helpdesk.ufl.edu, 352-392-4357

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
<http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
<http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

Career Connections Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.
<https://career.ufl.edu/> ([Links to an external site.](#)) ([Links to an external site.](#))

Office of Graduate Professional Development. Workshops and career advising on job searches, writing and research, personal and professional development for graduate students.
<http://graduateschool.ufl.edu/about-us/offices/division-of-graduate-student-affairs-dgsa/professional-development-ogpd/>

E-learning technical support (for Canvas), 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Wellness Resources:

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website 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 or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as 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.

University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.