

MUH 7938 Music and Heritage

University of Florida, Fall 2025

Tuesdays 4:05–7:05pm (Periods 9–11)

MUB 146

Professor: Dr. Aimee González

Email: aimeego@ufl.edu

Office: Yon Hall 435

Office Hours: Fridays 10:30am–12:30pm and by appointment

Overview

What is music heritage? How does music come to be recognized as heritage and who gets to decide? Who protects it, from what and for whom? This course will interrogate these questions and others by examining music heritage as a global process that connects music to the present, past, and future, and to critical issues of historic and cultural preservation. Cultural theorists argue that heritage is a modern phenomenon, a “mode of cultural production in the present that has recourse to the past” (Kirshenblatt-Gimblett 1995) and often aims to shape the future. As such, we will question what it means to think about heritage not as a noun but as a verb (Harvey 2001), adopting a dynamic focus related to human action and as an instrument of power. We will examine music heritage as a social, cultural, and political phenomenon that is, for many populations around the world, a vital source of identity shaped by history.

The course will unpack the development of the concept of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) as enshrined by UNESCO. Examining a range of case studies around the world, we will account for the different ways musical heritage and ICH have been defined and managed in national and international contexts and critically assess the problems and opportunities of attendant policies for musical communities. We will also approach music heritage from a local and grassroots perspective through the lens of musicians and cultural organizations. In doing so, we will study how diverse populations of various locations express their heritage and in turn, examine the diverse heritage of various locations.

By the end of this class, you will be able to:

- Understand and examine different conceptualizations of heritage and its relation to music.
- Drive discussion, undertake original research, and write about music that concerns processes

of heritage using descriptive and analytical techniques beyond those that you had before this course. This includes critically engaging with music through close reading, listening and research.

- Analyze and evaluate a range of arguments regarding the role of musical heritage in society, both generally and with respect to specific examples.
- Recognize and explain features of various musical artists, genres, and practices around the world and their engagement with concepts of heritage.

All course material will be available on Canvas (<https://lss.at.ufl.edu>) or elsewhere online.

Assignments

1. **Weekly Responses**

Write a short response post on Canvas to the assigned class material by midnight on the day before class. Your response should demonstrate thoughtful engagement with all assigned material for a given class meeting. You may provide a critical response to the readings, place the readings in dialogue with one another and/or with content from prior class meetings, or compare the readings to your own research, listening, or performance experience. Responses will help structure class discussion.

2. **Final Project**

Conduct an original research project that relates to the themes of the course. You will submit a short proposal for your project consisting of an abstract and bibliography, present a 10-minute talk on your research project with a question-and-answer session, and complete a final paper. I will post more detailed guidelines on Canvas.

Proposal

Abstract with bibliography

Final Project Presentation:

Presentation with slides followed by question-and-answer session

Final Paper:

Paper with bibliography

Without prior discussion and written approval from me, no late assignments will be accepted.

Grading

Class Participation	40%
Weekly Responses	20%
Proposal Final Project	5%
Presentation of Final Project	15%

[University Grading Policies](#)

Grading Scale (%) for UF Music History Classes:

A	94.00-100.00	B+	87.00-90.99	C+	77.00-80.99	D+	67.00-70.99	E	0-60.99
A-	91.00-93.99	B	84.00-86.99	C	74.00-76.99	D	64.00-66.99		
		B-	81.00-83.99	C-	71.00-73.99	D-	61.00-63.99		

Participation and Attendance

Participation in class discussions is a crucial component of the course's intellectual journey. I expect you to come to class having carefully completed the readings and listening assignments, ready to discuss your analysis of key issues.

I will evaluate your participation on the following criteria: being on time to class, engaging in discussion (quality over quantity!), and staying focused and attentive during class. Being attentive during class includes limiting digital devices only to class-related work.

[University Attendance Policies](#)

Attendance is mandatory for all class meetings. If you must be late or absent for any reason, please contact me *prior to the beginning of that class meeting* or your absence will be unexcused. Unexcused absences will result in a zero for participation on the day of the absence. Please keep in mind that you are responsible for all assigned work regardless of attendance or punctuality. Additionally, please look first to your classmates for review of material you missed. I am happy to answer any questions and discuss course material during my office hours.

If you are sick, please do not come to class! As long as you communicate with me prior to your class meeting, most absences can be excused and will not count against your grade. If you have a conflict with a School of Music ensemble performance or dress rehearsal, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can plan accordingly. If concerning patterns of absence arise, however, we may need to discuss.

Accommodations and Accessibility

The University of Florida is committed to creating an accessible and inclusive learning environment consistent with university policy and federal and state law. Please let me know if you experience any barriers to learning so I can work with you to ensure you have equal opportunity to participate fully in this course. If you are a student with a disability, or think you may have a disability, and need accommodations please contact the [Disability Resource Center](#) (352-392-8565; DRC@ufsa.ufl.edu).

Once you are registered, please deliver your accommodation letter to me as early as possible in the semester so we can discuss your approved accommodations and how I can help you succeed in this course.

Additional Policies

There are no extra credit opportunities associated with this course. All assignments for course credit are required as stated in this syllabus, and students should fully utilize all these assignments in order to successfully complete the course.

The instructor can alter the syllabus throughout the semester and will notify students of any significant changes made to it.

If you have concerns about writing, please make use of the [UF Writing Studio](#) as an additional resource for this course. They are available in person and online to help students achieve their writing goals at any stage of their writing process. The Writing Studio tutors are kind, encouraging, and interested! The staff at the Writing Studio will assist with questions related to your writing but will not proofread or edit your work for you. The Writing Studio also has valuable resources in the form of citation guides, workshops, and helpful videos on subjects including time management, note taking, citation/plagiarism, and study tips. Although limited drop-ins are welcome, the best way to guarantee an appointment is to schedule one [online](#).

Recommended writing/style manual for this course is The Chicago Manual of Style, which is available on campus or off-campus using a VPN at https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

Course Evaluations

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.aa.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.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Academic Integrity

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and

integrity by abiding by the [Honor Code](#). On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: ‘On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.’” The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Conduct Code](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor. For more details about the academic policies and resources, see [University Policies](#).

Schedule and Readings (subject to change)

UNIT 1: What is Heritage? What is UNESCO and Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)?

Week 2 (8/26): Introductions

Week 3 (9/2): Concepts of Musical Heritage

Week 4 (9/9): Heritagization and Understanding UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage

UNIT 2. Heritage and Sounding Migration in the United States

Week 5 (9/16): World’s Columbian Exposition (1893)

Week 6 (9/23): Blues

Week 7 (9/30): House

Week 8 (10/7): Son Jarocho and Mariachi

UNIT 3. Heritage Work: National and International

Week 9 (10/14): Instruments of National Policy

Week 10 (10/21): Valuing and Managing Heritage in Rapid Change

Week 11 (10/28): Heritage as a Tool of Governance and Heritage Across Borders

Week 12 (11/4): Media and Musical Heritage

Week 13 (11/11): NO CLASS – VETERANS DAY

Week 14 (11/18): Repatriation and Conclusion

Week 15 (11/25): NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK

Weeks 16 (12/2): Final Projects conference-style presentations