

# Syllabus

## MUSIC 232 Music as a Global Phenomenon

### Contact Information

Prof. Maisie Sum

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 3:50-4:30PM (Rm 1208), and by appointment

Email: [msum@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:msum@uwaterloo.ca)

### Announcements

I use the Announcements widget on the Course Home page during the term to communicate new or changing information regarding due dates, instructor absence, etc., as needed. You are expected to read the announcements on a regular basis. To ensure you are viewing the complete list of announcements, you may need to click **Show All Announcements**.

### Contact Us

For Course-related questions (e.g., course content, deadlines, assignments, etc.) and questions of a personal nature.

- Contact your instructor: Maisie Sum [msum@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:msum@uwaterloo.ca)  
Your instructor checks and writes email Monday to Friday, 9AM–5PM and will make every effort to reply to your questions within 48 hours. When emailing the instructor, please indicate the course code in the subject line and use your UWaterloo email address.

For Technical Support and Technical problems with Waterloo LEARN.

- Contact: [learnhelp@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:learnhelp@uwaterloo.ca)  
Include your full name, WatIAM user ID, student number, and course name and number. Technical support is available during regular business hours, Monday to Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM (Eastern Time). [LEARN Help Student Documentation](#)

For Student Resources.

- Contact: [Student Resources](#) for Academic advice, Student success, WatCards, Library services and more

## Course Description and Learning Outcomes

### Course Description

A survey of music studied in cross-cultural perspective with regard to its sound, performance practices, meanings, and functions from selected world traditions found in the diverse cultures of Africa, Asia, Latin America, North America, Europe, and the Middle East (from [Undergraduate Studies Calendar](#) 2022–23).

## Key Learning Outcomes (KLO)

The course is designed in a way that will enable you to:

- KLO 1. Identify and describe acoustical phenomena (e.g., instruments, musical elements, style) in music of the world’s cultures using basic concepts and terms.
- KLO 2. Demonstrate basic sound patterns characteristic of the music traditions selected for study.
- KLO 3. Apply a holistic approach to study music as a form of human expression.
- KLO 4. Discuss how music relates to societal systems and social cultural processes.
- KLO 5. Compare the significance and aesthetics of music in cultures worldwide, draw connections across cultures, and relate them to your own.
- KLO 6. Examine the value of studying musics worldwide and the issues and challenges associated with their study.
- KLO 7. Discuss the value of learning music from a musician native to the particular culture and/or on the respective instruments by reflecting on your direct experience.

## Grade Components

The following table represents the grade breakdown of this course. Go to the Course Information, then "Activities and Assessment" for guidance on coursework.

ACTIVITIES AND ASSIGNMENTS	KLOs	Weight (%) [sliding scale^] (default)
Participation (in-class discussions, in-class activities)	1–7	5–10 (10)
Discussion Posts (2 posts by Tuesday 4PM – 8 times, see Schedule)	1–7	5–15 (10)
Discussion Leader (in small groups; choose topic by W Sept 14)	1–7	10–20 (10)

ACTIVITIES AND ASSIGNMENTS	KLOs	Weight (%) [sliding scale^] (default)
Personal Musical Ethnography (750–1000 words) (Due M Sept 19)*	3	10–20 (15)
Performance Portfolio (Due W Nov 7)*	2	10–20 (15)
Final Creative Project ( <i>take a risk, try something new!</i> ) Topic (Due W Sept 21) Workshop (Scheduled W Oct 5) Rubric Making (Due M Oct 24 or W Oct 26) Creation-Presentation (M Nov 28, W Nov 30) Essay (750–1000 words) (Due M Dec 5)	1–7	30–40 (40) 2.5–7.5 (5) 2.5–7.5 (5) 15–25 (20) 10–20 (10)

\* You are granted an automatic 1-week extension for these assignments. You do not need to notify me or request permission. See the late policy (below) for extensions beyond this period.

^ You must notify your professor of the final weights you have chosen for each activity/assignment by Monday, Dec. 5, 2022. Otherwise, your professor will apply the default weight to each activity/assignment.

## Activities and Assignments

*Note: For guidance and instructions on coursework, click on the link or go to "Activities and Assessments" (under Course Information).*

## Participation and Discussion

This course blends lectures, writing assignments, discussions (teacher- and student-led), and music making to promote learning and understanding. Tasks and activities (in and outside class) may comprise a combination of independent and collaborative work. For more information go to "Activities and Assessment" under Course Information.

For communication etiquette, read the guidelines found here: [Student Guidelines for Communicating in Online, Professional Contexts](#).

## Essay: Personal Musical Ethnography

In your first paper, you are invited to write an essay that describes and examines your own musical life.

## Performance Portfolio

Music-making activities throughout the course (e.g., humming, clapping, reciting a rhythm) will enable you to experience and hopefully embody key aspects of the musics selected for study this term. We will use video and/or audio recordings as well as classes to practice sound patterns together. When you have become familiar enough with the sound patterns, record a video of yourself performing them. It is highly recommended that you record your performances to the Performance Portfolio on a regular basis rather than waiting to do them all in one go.

*Note: You are expected to work progressively on your Performance Portfolio throughout the term. The flexibility provided by a single due date is intended to help you manage the demands of other courses and events in your life. If possible, however, you are strongly encouraged to work on your portfolio on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. It is not recommended that you leave things too close to the due date.*

## Final Creative Project

This project allows you to activate and demonstrate your understanding of the course concepts in creative and meaningful ways. For example, you may choose to create a podcast, blog, dance, piece of music, costume, instruments, talk show, presentation for an elementary school class, etc.; perform on a new instrument, sing a song, perform a dance; or a write a paper. If you would like to explore other ideas, feel free to talk to your professor about it. You will be asked to choose a topic by Week 3. There are several classes designated for the creative project, including Weeks 5, 7. Week 9 (Wednesday) is also reserved for working on the project. In Week 12 you will present your creative projects.

[Rationale and Reflective Essay](#): This is your second paper. This assignment forms part of your Final Creative Project. It invites you to write a rationale for your selected project (why), describe your process (how), and to critically reflect on your success and/or shortcomings. Your essay should explain why you chose your project (see Writing Tips under Course Information tab), detail your independent research/learning (for the creative project), connect your learning with the course concepts and materials (supporting evidence), and reflect on how your experiences informed your understanding of the world's musics and how to study them in a meaningful and respectful way. Your essay does not require additional research (beyond what you did for the project); however, you are expected to draw directly from the course materials and include references.

## Your Instructor

I'm Maisie Sum, professor of music and co-director of the Balinese Gamelan Ensemble and Grebel Community Gamelan. My training is in ethnomusicology, which is often defined as the study of music in and as culture through fieldwork. Ethnomusicological scholarship has focused primarily on non-Western music; however, the scope of the discipline has expanded in recent years to include Western music and music beyond humanly organized sound (more about this in Unit 2). Currently, my research areas include Morocco and Indonesia. I am particularly interested in music among marginalized and diaspora communities, music analysis, the effects of globalization on music, performance practice, and in the significance of music in ritual practice, peace and conflict, and health and wellbeing.

Finally, I am the Acting Undergraduate Advisor and Officer of music so if you ever have questions about becoming a music major, minor, or double majoring with music at the University of Waterloo, send me a quick email or drop by during my virtual office hours (indicated above).

## Materials and Resources

### Readings, Listening and Viewing Materials

Each module includes reading, listening, and/or viewing materials. These materials include a mix of news articles, academic journal articles, book chapters, videos, and audio/video recordings of music performances. Some materials were chosen to illustrate key concepts of ethnomusicology, the ways in which scholars have applied these in their study of music, and public interest in the music of cultures worldwide. Others were selected as representations of particular music cultures and for their pedagogical value—that is, some listening selections include extensive explanations in books or liner notes, and/or listening guides. Still, some of these materials may also inform the engagement activities you will be asked to complete as part of each module. You can access all materials through the Content area of LEARN.

N.B. For details, see the “Bibliography” and “Discography” posted under Course Information. You will find some required recordings on the [NAXOS Music Library - World](#). You are also encouraged to peruse this site in your own time. It is a wonderful resource that comprises the entire Smithsonian Folk Music Collection. (N.B. In order to get off-campus access you must first “Connect from Home” from the library home page using their Watcard barcode and last name.)

## Resources

[Library COVID-19: Updates on library services and operations.](#)

## Responsibilities, Expectations, and Policies

**Look after yourself and each other.** As you know, an important part of academic success is personal well-being. Eat well, sleep sufficiently, get some exercise, and spend time outdoors, and don't abuse your body. If you are struggling with more-than-normal (debilitating) stress, anxiety, lack of motivation and/or depression, please talk to friends, family, or relevant professionals. There are many supports here at Conrad Grebel/UW. If you need help sourcing these, talk to your professor. Take responsibility for yourself and look out for others. **Be kind and compassionate to yourself and with each other.**

**Participate in online and class discussions regularly and take notes.** A poor presence and habitual lateness with due dates will affect your overall performance and result in a lower grade. Participating in discussion tasks regularly will help you maintain interest in the topic of the course and keep up with course requirements and guidelines for assignments. Taking notes is important as a practice of knowledge retention, a technique for attentiveness, and also to help you gather and work through information that you will need for writing assignments and your final creative project. Participation is monitored through the completion of Exit Surveys (on Google). Please note that as a member of the class you play a part in the learning process of this unique class community. Your presence contributes to the growth, dynamics, and success of everyone in this space, as well as your own.

This course combines lectures, writing, discussions, and music activities. The latter involves active participation in order to discuss, question, and explore the material. We will work to create a collaborative learning community, which requires presence and respectful engagement with the material and each other, particularly when viewpoints differ. Regular attendance is important, expected, and factored into the grade (*two absences will be excused* without penalty or notification).

**Be attentive to each other and participate in discussions.** Ask questions about things that you do not understand or are not clear. Be respectful of other students and their opinions. Remember that everyone has a story.

**You are responsible for keeping up with the course material.** You can do this by reviewing the previous forums, doing the assigned materials, and reading the discussion posts.

**Digital Platforms.** In addition to in-person meetings, this course uses LEARN, Kialo Edu, and other digital platforms. It is your responsibility to ensure you can receive email through LEARN as this is how your professor will communicate with students and you with each other. Please check the course site regularly for announcements, handouts, suggestions, etc. You will be submitting hard copies of essays in-class AND to a Dropbox in LEARN. We will use Kialo Edu and other platforms for short writing assignments and as engagement tools.

**Communication.** Please take advantage of the office hours listed on the first page of the syllabus, or make an appointment if these times conflict with your course schedule. Your professor is always happy to talk and eager to get to know you.

**Understand course requirements.** Please ask questions if these are not clear. Complete assignments on time (see Syllabus and Course Calendar for due dates). Note that electronic submissions to the Dropbox

on LEARN have specified end times on the given due date. Assignments arriving later than these times will be considered late unless they are eligible for an extension (see Late Policy below).

**Late Policy.** For **some** coursework you are automatically granted a one-week extension without the need to notify your professor. Should you need extra time beyond the automatic extension period, you are expected to contact your professor ahead of the extended due date. Any work that is submitted past the final due date without any prior consultation will be subject to a grading penalty of 2% per day (i.e., Late papers -- received beyond the 7 "free" late days -- will be downgraded accordingly. If, however, you need more time to complete the assignment, contact me a few days ahead of the extended due date.)

## University Policies

*Purpose: for students to understand the University Policies that pertain to them being a student in the course.*

**Academic integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. [Check the [Office of Academic Integrity](#) for more information.]

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4](#). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. [Check the [Office of Academic Integrity](#) for more information.] A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate associate dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71, Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties, check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

**Appeals:** A decision made or penalty imposed under [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances](#) (other than a petition) or [Policy 71, Student Discipline](#) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72, Student Appeals](#).

**Note for students with disabilities:** [AccessAbility Services](#), located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

Turnitin.com: Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students' submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin in this course.

It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor if they, in the first week of term or at the time assignment details are provided, wish to submit alternate assignment.

June 15, 2009 (updated March 2018)

## Coronavirus Information

### [Coronavirus Information for Students](#)

This resource provides updated information on COVID-19 and guidance for accommodations due to COVID-19.

#### **Covid Protocols (University Classroom Expectations)**

- For more info and regular updates please visit the University of Waterloo Covid-19 Information page: <https://uwaterloo.ca/coronavirus/>

#### **Course Plan if we need to move online**

If there is any reason that class can no longer meet in-person, the class will continue on Zoom.

An email

and announcement on LEARN will inform students of this change. The Zoom link will be available in the

email, in the announcement, and added to a widget on LEARN.

## Mental Health Support (optional)

*Purpose: this optional section provides students with the services and contact information for mental health supports*

All of us need a support system. We encourage you to seek out mental health supports when they are needed. Please reach out to [Campus Wellness and Counselling Services](#).

We understand that these circumstances can be troubling, and you may need to speak with someone for emotional support. [Good2Talk](#) is a post-secondary student helpline based in Ontario, Canada that is available to all students.

## Territorial Acknowledgement (optional)

*Purpose: to acknowledge Indigenous peoples' presence and land rights, to recognize that we benefit from the land, to prompt reflection, in the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation.*



“We acknowledge that we live and work on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (Neutral), Anishinaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometres on each side of the Grand River.”

*Note that you can use this acknowledgement as it is, or you may give it additional context specific to you and/or your course.*

## Copyright

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