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## **MUET 5220: Research and Field Methods**

### **Syllabus**

This course will explore the field of ethnomusicology. The term “field” refers both to an area of inquiry and a place of praxis. They inform each other, thus changes in one affect changes in the other. While exploring the history of ideas that has shaped the field, we will be conducting several small fieldwork projects, culminating in a final project.

**Due to the possibility that research will involve human subjects in the form of interviews, all students in this class are required to receive IRB certification, which can be obtained at the following website (<http://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php>). Certification must be completed by January 28.**

An essential part of ethnomusicology, the way much of the discipline is carried forward, is through the written word. Therefore, there will be assigned readings and an emphasis on writing.

#### **Grade Evaluation:**

There are three components to this course, each one of equal importance. Each component is worth 100 points or 1/3 of your final grade for a total of 300 possible points. You must complete all work in class to receive a passing grade.

- **Class participation**  
It is expected that you will be prepared to discuss the relevant readings and assignments in class. If you are not in class then you cannot participate; therefore, absences will affect your grade. As part of class attendance you are required to post a 1-2 paragraph response to the readings and pose at least one question to carry the class discussion forward on Blackboard by the Monday of each week. In addition you are required to respond to one question posted by one of your colleagues.
- **Assignments**  
4 assignments, each worth 25 points.
- **Project**  
Instead of a traditional final paper project, you will write a grant proposal, 10-12 pages, based on preliminary research, due the final class period. This means that you need to choose a project (which must be approved), conduct a literature review, do preliminary fieldwork, write up the initial results, detail how you will go about doing the main body of research, what methods you intend to use, and why the project is worthy of funding.

Your grade is based on the following standard percentage of points earned:

270 - 300 (90%)	= A
240 - 269 (80%)	= B
210 - 239 (70%)	= C
180 - 209 (60%)	= D
Below 180	= F

**You must have a passing grade for each component to pass this course.**

### **Schedule of Classes**

Some units will occupy more class time than others and are subject to change as the semester progresses and we discuss and evaluate class projects.

Unit 1: Introduction and general discussion  
Doing Ethnomusicology

Unit 2: The Armchair: Theorizing from Afar  
Comparative musicology and the beginnings of ethnomusicology

Unit 3: The Field: Observation, Participation, Participant/Observation  
What does it mean to observe something?  
What does it mean to participate?

Unit 4: The Ethnographic Pulse: Societal Bodies  
Functionalism

Unit 5: The Linguistic Turn: The Poetics of Weeping  
Structuralism

Unit 6: The New Ethnography: Minds and Music  
Ethnoscience

Unit 7: Being-in-the-field: Texts, Interpretations, and Phenomenology  
Hermeneutics  
Symbolic approaches

Unit 8: Heterophony: Ethnomusicological Variations in a Postmodern World  
Culture studies  
Music and Identity

**Most assigned readings will be available on Blackboard or library reserve. Click on Course Reserves, type in the course number (MUET 5220) and the password for online reserves is muet5220 (no spaces).**

### **Office of Disability Accommodation**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

### **Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (Undergraduates)**

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. Please visit <http://financialaid.unt.edu/satisfactory-academic-progress-requirements> for more information about financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. It may be wise for you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course being doing so.

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic Integrity is defined in the UNT Policy on Student Standards for Academic Integrity. Any suspected case of Academic Dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the University Policy and procedures. Possible academic penalties range from a verbal or written admonition to a grade of "F" in the course. Further sanctions may apply to incidents involving major violations. You will find the policy and procedures at: <http://vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm>.

### **Student Behavior in the Classroom**

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at: [www.unt.edu/csrr](http://www.unt.edu/csrr).