MUSC 265
AFRICAN PRESENCES I: Music in Africa
Fall 2012

Syllabus

Instructor: Eric Charry, 201 Music Studios, x 2579, echarry@wesleyan.edu, echarry.blogs.wesleyan.edu
Course hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2:40pm to 4:00pm, MS301
Office hours: TBA and by appointment
Course website: http://musc265.blogs.wesleyan.edu/

Course Description: This course will explore the diversity of musical expression throughout the African continent by immersing ourselves in a combination of intensive reading, listening to recordings, viewing videos, discussion, and in-class demonstration performances. We will survey the continent as a whole, explore regional traits, and discuss in depth specific pieces, genres, and countries. We will also explore the presence of African musicians on the internet, including the spread and impact of African rap and hip hop.

Required texts
All other readings are on Olin library online electronic reserve (E-Res) or linked from Moodle.

Course Requirements
Reading: Reading the articles and chapters is required as indicated in the syllabus and announced each class.

Listening: All required listening is on online reserve (as streamed mp3s) through the Olin library E-Res page or on the course blog, which links to various websites. You are required to listen to and study the pieces discussed in each class.

Writing: Weekly responses to the assigned reading, a midterm paper (5-7 pages) and a final research paper (9-11 pages) on any relevant topic to be chosen in consultation with the instructor. Complete citations and/or footnotes should be given for all of the sources in the paper. Websites may be used, but they should be fully cited.

Group Presentations: The class will form groups of 3-5 students each and will make 15-minute presentations just before the midterm break. Presentation topics and formats are open-ended (e.g. a powerpoint show, musical performance, website, etc.), but should be based on the course material.

Participation: All students are expected to fully participate in class discussions and projects.

Examinations: No major exams. Some of the weekly response papers may function as quizzes on the readings.

Performance: With the active consultation of the instructor students may elect to work on a performance based firmly in an African tradition. In this case a shorter paper about that performance tradition accompanied by a recording of the student performing will be acceptable. Each case should be thoroughly discussed with the instructor.

Grades: Your grade will be primarily determined as follows: Written responses (25%) + Midterm paper (25%) + Class Presentations (15%) + Final paper (35%). Class participation may also be factored in.

Attendance Policy: Consistent class attendance is required and students are expected to arrive on time. Any problems must be discussed with the instructor as unexcused absences (more than three) or excessive lateness will result in a lowered grade. Please keep cell phones silent while in class. I prefer that laptops not be used in class.
It is the policy of Wesleyan University to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students, however, are responsible for registering with Disabilities Services, in addition to making requests known to me in a timely manner. If you require accommodations in this class, please contact me during the 1st week of the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made. The procedures for registering with Disabilities Services can be found at [http://www.wesleyan.edu/studentaffairs/disabilities/index.html](http://www.wesleyan.edu/studentaffairs/disabilities/index.html)
SCHEDULE OF CLASS WORK, Part I
(Subject to change)

Week 1
Tues. 9/4
Introduction to the course

Thur. 9/6
Overview of African history
Memorize map of African countries (take moodle link to course blog)
Newman (Introduction [1-8]), Blier (Introduction [14-19])

Week 2
Tues. 9/11
African Musical Features
Charry (2003: 17-26)
Supplementary: Kubik (293-326)

Thur. 9/13
Mande overview
(Drop/Add ends 9/14)

Week 3
Tues. 9/18
Music of the Jelis
Charry (2000a: Chap. 3 [90-152])

Thur. 9/20
continued
Durán (245-253)

Week 4
Tues. 9/25
Guitar-based orchestras: Western Africa
Charry (2000a: Chap. 5 [242-288])

Thur. 9/27
continued
Shain (83-101)

Week 5
Tues. 10/2
Drumming: Senegambia, Guinea, Mali
Charry (2000a: Chap. 4 [193-229])

Thur. 10/4
continued
Cohen (11-48), Polak (261-281)

Week 6
Tues. 10/9
Group presentations

Thur. 10/11
continued
Midterm paper DUE

FALL BREAK
SCHEDULE OF CLASS WORK, Part II

Week 7
Thur. 10/18
Rep. of South Africa
Erlmann (Chap. 6 [156-174])
Malan

Week 8
Tues. 10/23
Zimbabwe
Berliner (8-27, 55, 186-206)

Week 9
Thur. 10/25
continued

Week 10
Tues. 10/30
Islam and African music
Charry (2000b: 545-573)

Week 11
Thur. 11/1
Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania
Danielson (Chap. 1 [1-20])
El Hamel (241-260)

Week 12
Tues. 11/6
Nigeria (Fela), Cameroun (Makossa)
Veal (11-19, 39-43, 125-144, 179-190)
Dibango (1-10, 77-94)

Thur. 11/8
Ghana
Locke (5-11; see listening sheet for other pages keyed to the CD)

Week 13
Tues. 11/13
continued
Chernoff (Chap. 3 [91-151])

Thurs. 11/15
Forest Peoples
Cavalli-Sforza & Cavalli-Sforza (10-17, 162, 176)
Final Project Rough Draft DUE

Week 14
Tues. 11/20
Congolese Rumba and Soukous
Stewart (Chaps. 1-2 [1-33], Chap. 6 [76-100]), Ewens (96-99)

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 15
Tues. 11/27
Gender: Uganda and Kenya
Nanyonga-Tamusuzu (1-7, 36-43, 62-65, 124-164, 189-209)
Ntarangwi (chap 3 [44-66])

Thur. 11/29
Concepts of Time; Gospel
Agawu (8-30, 105-108), Merriam (443-461)
Atiemo (142-163)

Week 16
Tues. 12/4
Hip Hop
Schulz (129-146), Tang (79-91)

Thur. 12/6
continued

FINAL PAPER DUE: 7pm Tuesday, December 11
Bibliography

Agawu, V. Kofi  

Atiemo, Abamfo Ofori  

Berliner, Paul  

Blier, Suzanne  

Cavalli-Sforza, Luigi Luca and Francesco Cavalli-Sforza  

Charry, Eric  

Charry, Eric  

Charry, Eric  

Charry, Eric  

Chernoff, John Miller  

Cohen, Joshua  

Danielson, Virginia  

Dibango, Manu with Danielle Rouard  

Durán, Lucy  

Erlmann, Veit  

Ewens, Graeme  

El Hamel, Chouki  

Kubik, Gerhard  

Locke, David  

Malan, Rian  
Merriam, Alan P.  

Nannyonga-Tamusuza, Sylvia A.  

Ntarangwi, Mwenda  

Newman, James L.  

Polak, Rainer  

Schulz, Dorothea  

Shain, Richard M.  

Stewart, Gary  

Tang, Patricia  

Veal, Michael E.  