Music and the Construction of Brazilian Identity

In Brazil, music can be encountered everywhere and part of a complex network of people searching for a better way of life. This course plans to investigate the social and political importance of music and its association with the various developments of Brazilian history, how people have aspirations, look at their lives, and ultimately view the ethnic, racial, and social factors that shape culture and society. This course looks at the historical and regional developments of Brazilian music and the role of music in creating Brazilian identity. The seminar does explore historical, aesthetic, and cultural dimensions of musical traditions and regional experiences, looking at relevant historical factors to explain the formation of a Brazilian identity discussing the formation of Brazil and its people. Various types of music linked to notions of region, class, and racial identity will be covered, including música do nordeste, música do suleste, música folclórica, música popular, and música erudita. The course will utilize various written and media materials to examine historical, geographical, political, social, religious, and aesthetic aspects of Brazilian music. The course recognizes Brazilian music's uniqueness in the global music scenario (the transnational element of Brazilian music). It promotes a broader view of the political and social scene by reviewing historical contributions to the present time.

OBJECTIVES AND GUIDANCE
Class periods will comprise lectures, guest presentations, demonstrations, class discussion of assigned reading and listening, and focused listening and viewing of recorded media. Class handouts will list the schedule of course topics together with essential reading and listening assignments. The course explores historical, aesthetic, and cultural dimensions of musical traditions and other relevant factors of Brazilian culture. Assigned groups will discuss the required textbooks and assignments in class. Your willingness to express your informed opinion and to challenge the ideas found in the readings is essential! Please be ready to contribute positively to the understanding of music and its collaborations to the development of Brazilian society. Please show up to class on time or in ZOOM and prepared to discuss the assigned topic. Your willingness to express informed opinions about material covered in the readings is valued and required in this class.

COURSE GOALS
1. To fully appreciate Brazilian music, its role, and relevance to understanding Brazilian society.
2. To become familiar with Brazil and Brazilian music's history and its relevance in forming diverse musical scenarios, and the transnational aspect of Brazilian music.
3. To broaden an understanding of Brazilian society and its various social configurations.
4. To discover that Brazilian society has gone through different social, economic, and political developments that have transformed and expanded the notion of “brasileirismo.”
5. To acquire a broader view of Brazilian music through various repertoires and its role mediating folk, popular and classical traditions.
6. To identify and distinguish diverse musical genres and songwriters, associating them to the regions of Brazil.
7. To get a broader view of the political and social scenario by reviewing historical contributions to the present time.
8. To create your understanding of how music and culture have intertwined to create national identity linked to regional characteristics.

TEXTS FOR THE COURSE (Required)

Recommended Purchases

COURSE ORGANIZATION
The class is a seminar format is organized around a series of topics from the textbook and assigned chapters from readings. For each topic (see Schedule of Topics – given in class), a list of required and suggested readings will also be provided. Each student is expected to come to class prepared to contribute to discussing the assigned topic (part of the grading scale). The student leads the discussion, though organized and timed by the instructor. The goal is to have you prepare an open discussion of your contribution to your specific reading assignment. The course also brings additional information on organizing and preparing researched assignments using a particular methodology to formulate ideas or create new knowledge. You are required to turn in a one/two-page reading assigned report during your weekly presentation. Your final research paper and presentation will be presented during the final term project oral and written presentations (hard copy and electronic versions)

TOPICS & HOMEWORK
The topics and assigned readings covered in the semester are organized and listed with your Schedule of Topics. Please read the assignments carefully and prepare a topic discussion based on your assigned task before coming to class. Please bring a hard copy of all reading materials to class, or have it with you when attending class via ZOOM, including your textbook and additional article or book chapter readings.

ADDITIONAL READINGS and GENERAL INFORMATION
Additional topics will be selected from Portuguese readings (if you are a Portuguese major or minor) and English. Other textbooks and journal articles will be listed with the Schedule of Topics to expand the resources found with the required texts or to expand your research interest. Additional readings can be found online at the AFA Library http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/afa/ (music) or George A. Smathers Library – Latin American and Caribbean Collection - https://lacc.uflib.ufl.edu/. Furthermore, JSTOR online is an excellent source of articles and will significantly aid your final research paper. Be aware that login in JSTOR from outside Campus does require Gatorlink VPN.

GRADING
Grades will be based on your class participation, written work, homework assignments, and oral presentations within the following percentages:
Attendance, participation, and presentation in class discussions related to class reading assignments in class or in ZOOM ______________________________________ 20%
Homework assignments __________________________________________ 25%
Written Midterm Exam __________________________________________ 15%
Final oral research presentation (power point) _______________________ 10%
Final term research project report __________________________________ 30%

PRELIMINARY DUE DATES
Reading and Homework Assignments Every class meeting
Written Exam during Class Wednesday, March 31
Oral Research PowerPoint Presentation Wednesday, April 7, 14, 21
Research paper deadline (electronic and hard copy) at last day of Classes Wednesday, April 21

Oral Research Presentation is a PowerPoint project presentation (.ppt) intended to discuss your chosen research topic for this course. The presentation should reflect your ability to propose new ideas, concepts, and theories related to your topic.

The final term project is a research paper: (10-12 pages [4000 levels] and 12-15 pages [6000 levels], font-size: Times New Roman 12 / Space: 1,5 space) on music or philosophical related topic of your choice and previously discussed with the instructor due at the last day of class. Only partial credit is awarded if the research paper is not in by the last day of class (December 8). The grade scale for this course is as follows: "A"--93-100 "A-"--90-93 "B+"--87-89 "B"--83-86 "B-"--80-82 "C+"--77-79 "C"--73-76 "C-"--70-72 "D"--65-69 "E"--64 or below. The midterm exam will feature short answer, an essay, and identification components.

GENERAL POLICIES
Attendance is required. Please show up to class on time. Class sessions will be conducted as seminars, and your participation in critically discussing the topics is essential. Assignments are part of your grade. If you do not come to class prepared—i.e., having completed the readings—the course will lack diverse perspectives. Do not hesitate to challenge ideas found in the readings and expressed in class. You are allowed a total of two unexcused absences during the semester. Each additional unexcused absence will result in a lowering of your semester course total by six points. The criteria for officially excused absences are (1) medical reasons accompanied by a signed statement from your doctor, (2) unanticipated family emergencies accompanied by a signed statement from your parent or guardian, (3) a religious holiday conflict, or (4) an official University of Florida conflict accompanied by a signed statement from the faculty sponsor and a pre-arranged agreement with the instructor. For disputes of type (3) or (4) above, you must notify the instructor at least one week before the anticipated absence. Extra three points will be awarded for perfect attendance. A late arrival (5 or more minutes) is an absence, unless justifiable!

(STUDENT HONOR CODE AND STUDENT CONDUCT CODE) at https://dso.ufl.edu/ (The Dean of Students Office) Cheating on exams and using someone else's ideas in a written paper without providing proper recognition of the source (plagiarizing) are serious matters. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing is subject to an automatic E for the course and further disciplinary action by the Student Honor Court. Be original and creative in your writing and exposing your ideas.

For students with disabilities—to request classroom accommodations, contact the Assistant Dean of Students/Director of the Disability Resources Program at P202 Peabody Hall or call 392-1261 (V), 392-3008 (TDD). Enjoy your semester and this new course experience!