Ethnomusicology MUSC 4112, Fall 2006 Syllabus
Dr. Brenda Romero
M W 4 – 5:15; C191
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Scope
This course is an introductory study of the definition, scope, and methods of ethnomusicology, the study of music in or as culture, that focuses on the significance of music and musical practices in and of all cultures, in a holistic manner that includes all social strata and ethnicities.

Objectives
1) To become familiar with the theoretical approaches of ethnomusicology and the sub-discipline of organology;
2) To explore the techniques and methods of investigating music in culture;
3) To become familiar with bibliographic sources in ethnomusicology;
4) To learn how to analyze music as part of its cultural context.

Readings:

Kaemmer, John P. *Music in Human Life.* Austin: University of Texas Press, 1990. Two copies are on reserve in the Music Library and required chapters are also on Online Reserves for this course.

Additional readings for this class will be placed on Reserve in the Music Library and will be posted on Online Reserves as well.

Grading:

10% Socio-cultural Paper: a short paper (approx. 4 pages) on music and the socio-cultural system (guidelines to be handed out in class). DUE September 25

20% Transcription Assignment: each student will transcribe a musical recording assigned by the professor, present it to the class, and write a brief (1 – 2 page) summary/analysis of the work. DUE October 9 and 11

25% Field Project: a project in which students will study a musical event or series of events in a community in the Front Range area by observing and/or participating “in the field.” Students will work in twos or threes on this assignment and present an oral report in class. Each student will turn in a brief, written report. DUE November 6, 8, 13

35% Research paper and oral presentation: a scholarly paper of original research that demonstrates your knowledge of literature in ethnomusicology. Choice of topic is open, but must have professor’s approval. Your paper may be an extension of your Fieldwork Project, your Transcription Assignment, or a new topic. DUE Dec. 11 – 13, and 19th
10% Participation: students are expected to attend class regularly, contribute to discussions and occasionally make presentations. Missed classes will lower your grade and hinder your ability to participate. It is your participation, not the quality of your comments, that is most valued. Students should not be embarrassed to ask any question as this subject is most likely familiar to everyone. The instructor can best gauge how to pace this class based on feedback from students.

Attendance: 3 unexcused absences will lower your grade.

Course schedule (reading assignments are subject to change):

Week 1: August 28: Introductions; August 30: “Humanly Organized Sound”
Reading by 8/30: Blacking: preface and pp. 1 – 53

Week 2: **No Class on Labor Day, September 4;**
September 6: Reading: Blacking: pp. 54 – 118

Week 3: September 11: Reading Nettl, Ch. 1
September 13: Music and the Socio-Cultural System – Guest Lecturer TBA
Reading by today: Kaemmer, Chapter 1

Week 4: September 18: Kaemmer, Ch 2
September 20: Kaemmer, Ch 3

Week 5: September 25: SOCIO-CULTURAL PAPER DUE;
Musicianship: Kaemmer, Ch. 4
Also: Look over Bakan, Bryant, Li, Martinelli, and Vaughn
September 27: Ellingson, “Transcription” in Myers; Also: Nettl, Ch. 6

Week 6: October 2: Kaemmer, Ch. 5
October 4: Kaemmer, Ch. 6; Nettl, Ch. 18

Week 7: October 9 - 11: TRANSCRIPTION PRESENTATIONS – 5 minutes each
View in Music Library this week: Zemp Videos:
Tape 1: 'Are'Are Music, Parts I, II; Tape 2: Part III, and Shaping Bamboo

Week 8: October 16: Romero “Profile of an Ethnomusicologist”
Establishing a fieldwork design and method
October 18: Myers, “Fieldwork;” Titon “Knowing Fieldwork”

Week 9: October 23: Rice, “Toward a Mediation . . .” in Barz & Cooley
October 25: Cooley: "Casting Shadows in the Field, An Introduction"

Week 10: October 30: Summary of transcriptions; group conclusions
November 1: Romero “Profile of an Ethnomusicologist”
Establishing a fieldwork design and method
**Week 11:** November 6: Myers, “Fieldwork;”
Titon “Knowing Fieldwork” in Barz and Cooley
November 8: Cooley: "Casting Shadows in the Field, An Introduction"
Rice, “Toward a Mediation . . .” in Barz and Cooley

**Week 12:** November 13: Beaudry: "The Challenges of Human Relations in Ethnographic Enquiry" in Barz and Cooley
Sarkissian: "Gender in Music" in Myers

November 15: Guest: Dr. Patricia Sandler
Babiracki: "What's the Difference? Reflections on Gender and Research in Village India," in Barz and Cooley

**Week 13:** FALL BREAK AND THANKSGIVING

**Week 14:** November 27 - 29: Slobin, “Micromusics of the West”

**Week 15:** December 4 - 6: Kingsbury, “Music, Talent, and Performance”

**Week 16:** December 11 – 13: FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

**FINAL:** Thursday, Dec. 21, 7:30 – 10:00 a.m.: FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS (missing the Final will lower your grade)
Course Bibliography:

Babiracki, Carol M.

Bakan, Michael B., Bryant, Wanda, Li, Guangming, Martinelli, David, and Vaughn, Kathryn.

Barz, G. and Cooley, T. (eds.)

Beaudry, Nicole
1997  "The Challenges of Human Relations in Ethnographic Enquiry" in Barz and Cooley, pp. 4-83

Cooley, T., editor
1997  "Casting Shadows in the Field, An Introduction" in Barz and Cooley, pp. 3-19

Kaemmer, John P.

Kingsbury, Henry.

Myers, Helen

Nettl, Bruno.

Rice, Timothy.

Romero, Brenda.

Sarkissian, Margaret
1992  "Gender and Music" in Myers,  pp. 337-348

Slobin, Mark.
1993  *Subcultural Sounds: Micromusics of the West*.  Hanover, NH:  University Press of New England

Titon, Jeff Todd.

Zemp, Hugo.

**Some Important Journals for Ethnomusicologists:**

*Ethnomusicology*
*Ethnomusicology Online*
*Yearbook for Traditional Music*
*Yearbook of the International Folk Music Council*
*Yearbook for inter-American Musical Research*
*Selected Reports in Ethnomusicology*
*Worlds of Music*
*Music and Anthropology*
*Pacific Review of Ethnomusicology*
*American Folklore Society Journal*
*Journal of Folklore Research*
*[British] Ethnomusicology forum (online)*

**Area journals:**
*Asian Music: journal of the Society for Asian Music*
*American Music*
*The American Music Research Journal*
*African Music: journal of the African Music Society*
*Black Music Research Journal*
*Latin American Music Review*

**Encyclopedias:**
*The Garland Encyclopedia of World Music*
*The New Grove Dictionary*
*The New Grove Dictionary of Musical Instruments*