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Drumming Across Cultures

Winter 2024, U.W.O.

Music 2801B: Drumming Across Cultures – Winter 2024

Course Instructor: Robert Darcy Larose; rlarose4@uwo.ca

Office Hours: By Appointment, TC126

Course Description;

Open to non-music majors with no prior musical training or percussion expertise, this introductory world music course will focus on the drumming music of Africa, Brazil, Latin America and the Middle East with students participating in **hands on performance**. Students will learn the correct playing procedures for a variety of percussion instruments including hand drums, bells, and shakers. Basic rhythmic reading and notation will be taught. The rich cultural history of these traditions will be explored to help students better understand the roots and origins of the music.

This course will focus on teaching students to play within small and large ensemble settings (where permissible) and will focus on the process of music making rather than obtaining professional result. Students will be allowed to demonstrate learned skills individually as well.

It is now required that students have a suitable hand drum for individual practice times as well as for Thursday class instruction. The instructor will discuss appropriate drums for rent or purchase at first class and post suggestions on OWL beforehand. A PDF of the text Rob Larose's Latin Thing may also be required for the unit on Latin Percussion and available from the instructor for \$10. Other small instruments such as shakers and bells will be provided.

Evaluation Summary:

Class participation and effort 10%

Online quizzes 20% (4 x 5%)

Drumming Skills Evaluations 45% (3 x 15%)

Final Recital/Composition 25 %

There is no final exam in this course.

Attendance

As this is a 'hands on' course regular participation is mandatory. **Class attendance will be taken each Thursday.**

On-Line Quiz

These are on-line, open book quizzes focusing on cultural as well as musical aspects of drumming.

Some rhythmic notation will also be included in these quizzes. There is one quiz for each of the 4 units covered; *West Africa, The Middle East, Cuba and Brazil*.

Each quiz is worth 5 marks.

They will be administered through OWL, and be open for 24 hours between Friday and Saturday.

Drumming Skills Evaluation

In the first 3 units, you will be given the opportunity to demonstrate your hand drumming skill as covered in class. These may be individual demonstrations or performed in a small group setting demonstrating the various ensemble rhythms in a short arrangement style. These will be done during class time in front of supportive peers. Practice time and guidance will be provided. You may be asked to prepare and submit a short video demonstrating your hand drumming skills so practicing on your own is important.

Final Recital/Composition

The course will culminate in a final group recital, open to the public, on Thursday April 6, 2023 at 2pm in MB 27 (our regular class room) Attendance is mandatory. You will be assessed on your preparation, performance and presentation.

It is imperative that class be attended in order to achieve full marks. If you are not well, please follow only the proper channels set by the university for any academic considerations. By all means, do not email the instructor asking for leniency.

Class 1, Africa January 11

12:30 – 1:50pm Seating arrangements, attendance, types of drums allowed, course outline, basic 4/4 rhythmic notation.

2:00-3:20 Hand Drum open and bass tones. How to hold drums, basic warm ups. Call and Response.

Repertoire West African drumming technique as taught by Olatunji

Evaluation none

Class 2 January 18

12:30 – 1:50pm Hand drum techniques continued, rhythms of *Ballet Creole* in 6/8 using hand drums. Elements of 6/8 notation. Cultural references. Notes on African Drumming.

2:00-3:20 *West African Ensemble as well as Ballet Creole*

Repertoire (*may explore Gahu if time permits*)

Evaluation On- Line Quiz, 5%

Class 3 January 25

12:30 – 1:50pm Class ensemble work on West African Piece and *Ballet Creole*

2:00-3:20 Small Group practice and present to class - one of either W.A Piece or Ballet Creole

Repertoire provided in class

Evaluation Group performance 15%. May include reflection paragraph.

Class 4, Middle East February 1

12:30 – 1:50pm Dumbek technique. Notation in 8/4, 4/4, and 2/4. Cultural references.

2:00-3:20 Masmoudi, Maqsum, Malfuf, Baladi and other rhythms.

Repertoire

Evaluation none

Class 5 February 8

12:30 – 1:50pm Review dumbek rhythms and add to them. Cultural references.

2:00-3:20 Class arrangements using middle eastern dance rhythms.

Repertoire

Evaluation On-line quiz, 5%

Class 6 February 15

12:30 – 1:50pm Review above techniques and create small group arrangements.

2:00-3:20 Ensemble work - small group practice to create from prior learning

Repertoire Class compositions

Evaluation Group performance featuring Middle East rhythms. May include reflection paragraph. 15%

February 22 is UWO Reading Week

Class 7,
Cuba February 29 (leap year)

12:30 – 1:50pm Hand drum open, bass and slap tones. Son Clave in 3-2 and 2-3. Bell patterns, maracas, guiro techniques. Cultural references.

2:00-3:20

Repertoire Cuban Son music, the Cha Cha Cha. "Oye Como Va", Tito Puente

Evaluation none

Class 8 March 7

12:30 – 1:50pm The Tumbao pattern of rcoangas. The Martillo for bongos. Locked rhythms called 'Cierre', Abanico and features of Latin Music. Cultural references.

2:00-3:20

Repertoire The cha cha cha and mambo.

Evaluation On-line quiz, 5%

Class 9 March 14

12:30 – 1:50pm Review above techniques and create small group arrangements.

2:00-3:20 Small Group practice and present Cuban ensemble arrangements to class.

Repertoire class compositions

Evaluation Group performance using Cuban Rhythms. 10%

Student submitted video of solo tumbao pattern skills. 5%

Class 10,
Brazil March 21

12:30 – Elements of Samba and Bossa Nova. Playing techniques for surdo, tamborim, ago-go bells, caixa,
1:50pm and other battery instruments. Notation of patterns.

2:00-3:20
Simple class arrangement of *Samba Batucada*
Repertoire

Evaluation none

Class 11 March 28

12:30 – 1:50pm Cultural references. Notes on Brazilian folk music.

2:00-3:20 *Samba Batucada* class arrangement

Repertoire Prepare for final recital

Evaluation On line quiz, 5%

Class 12 April 4

12:30 – 1:50pm Set up for Final Recital Performance in Music Room 242. Warm Up and Practice.

2:00-3:00
Final Recital in MB 242.
Repertoire Four pieces featuring music of Africa, Cuba, the Middle East and Brazil.
Open to the public.

Evaluation 25%

Required information:

i) **Course Prerequisites:**

Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

ii) **Grading scale:** A+=90-100%, A=80-89%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, D=50-59%, F=0-49%.

iii) **Academic Consideration for Student Absence & Missing Work ($\geq 10\%$):** Students are responsible for making up any missed classes or assignments as soon as possible. The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC210), together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. Students are directed to read the Senate policy on accommodation for medical illness at the following website for further details regarding requirements and procedures for the supporting documentation:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

iv) **Academic Consideration for Missing Work ($< 10\%$):** In cases where students miss work that is worth less than 10% of the total course grade (ie. two or fewer assignments) due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if documentation is voluntarily submitted to the Associate Dean's office and the Associate Dean grants an accommodation, then the missed assignment(s) or quiz(zes) will be discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course. If documentation is not voluntarily submitted then the missed assignment(s) will receive a grade of zero. Students who have been denied accommodation by an instructor may appeal this decision to the Associate Dean's office but will be required to present appropriate documentation.

v) Academic Offences: Submission of work with which you have received help from someone else (other than the course instructor or TA) is an example of plagiarism, which is considered a major academic offence. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as found at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

vi) Mental Health & Wellness: Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to the Health and Wellness at Western page (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help or to go to the Wellness Education Centre located in UCC room 76. Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in UC11 or to click on the green "I Need Help Now" button on the Health and Wellness page above.

vii) Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Students work with Accessible Education Western (AEW, formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

viii) Religious Accommodation: Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar.

<http://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

ix) Contingency Plan: Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 restrictions may necessitate some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

x) Gender-Based and Sexual Violence: Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence, either recently or in the past, you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca or call 519 661-3568.

xi) Examinations & Attendance: Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from

class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

xii) Electronic Devices in Exams: Electronic devices of any type will not be permitted during the Midterm Test and/or Final Exam in this course (unless required for accessibility reasons based on an approved accommodation request from Accessible Education).

xiii) Electronic Devices in Classrooms: The in-class use of electronic devices (other than for instructor-approved in-class uses) is expressly prohibited. Students found guilty of disrupting the class with electronic devices will be asked to leave the class and may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

xiv) Plagiarism Detection Software Usage: All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).

xv) Computer-marked Multiple-choice Tests or Exams: These may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.