



Survey of Native American Music

K. Scott Eggert, Professor

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this class is to acquaint the student with the diverse world of Native American music, showing a line of descent from ancient musical forms to the modern music of a living community. The class shall be divided into three distinct units. The first shall focus on ancient forms and tribe-specific genres of social and ceremonial music (Cherokee social dances, Sun Dance songs, Lakota ceremonial songs). The second unit will be an examination of the intertribal tradition of powwow music, and the dances associated with the various song-forms. The third unit will focus on contemporary Native American musicians and the new hybrid forms emerging from indigenous communities of the present day. The class shall have some interactive elements to it, giving the students the opportunity to experience the communal music-making associated in particular with the powwow tradition, as well as to gain an understanding of this music as a unique cultural expression.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Music in the New World, by Charles Hamm. W.W. Norton & Co., 1983.

Worlds of Music: An Introduction to the Music of the World's Peoples, by Jeff Todd Titon, Timothy J. Cooley, David Locke, David P. McAllester, and Anne K. Rasmussen. Cengage Learning, 5th Ed., 2008.

ADDITIONAL READINGS

"Powwow Music and its Polymetric Construction," by Norman Stanfield. Article, *Musicultures*, 2010.

WEEKLY LESSON SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction, 500 Nations and their Commonalities and Differences, Traditional Instruments.

Week 2: Song Genre Overview, Pre-colonial Contact. Music for Dance, Courtship (Love Flute) Prayer, Ceremony. Vision Songs (Lenape Gamwing Ceremony). Songs of Animals to Call Spirits and to Propitiate and Honor in Hunting. Healing Songs/Formulas. Conjuring Songs and Formulas for Creating Desired Outcomes such as Rain, and for Bewitching Others -- includes Love Magic and Malignant Spells.

Week 3: Cherokee Social Dance Music, Stomp Dance Music (Iroquois, Cherokee, Creek). Interactive Activity (Singing/Rattles), Analysis of Musical Structure, Connection to Culture.

Week 4: Sun Dance Ceremonial Music. Interactive Activity (Singing/Drumming), Analysis of Musical Structure and Lyrics, Connection to Culture/Ceremony.

Week 5: Lakota Ceremonial Songs. Interactive Activity (Singing/Drumming), Analysis of Musical Structure and Lyrics, Connection to Culture/Ceremony.

Week 6: Various other forms. Navajo Nightway Ceremony, Inuit Throat-Singing, Native American Church Music. Interactive Activity (Singing/Drumming), Analysis of Musical Structure and Lyrics, Connection to Culture/Ceremony.

Week 7: Colonial Period. Introduction to Powwow Music. Rise of Influence of European and African Cultures. Northern vs. Southern Style. Adoption of Bass Drums and Metal Bells. Influence of African Call-and-Response on Southern and Iroquois Music. Rise of Intertribal Music and Forty-Niner Songs.

Week 8: Powwow Dance Traditions. Grand Entry Songs, Intertribals, Fancy Dance Songs. Interactive Activity (Singing/Drumming), Analysis of Musical Structure and Lyrics, Connection to Culture/Ceremony.

Week 9: Animal Dances: Rabbit Dance, Crow Hop. Interactive Activity (Singing/Drumming), Analysis of Musical Structure and Lyrics, Connection to Culture/Ceremony.

Week 10: Flag Songs, Hunting Songs. Interactive Activity (Singing/Drumming), Analysis of Musical Structure and Lyrics, Connection to Culture/Ceremony.

Week 11: Contemporary Period. Continuation of Powwow Intertribal Tradition, Development of Hybrid Forms. French/Scottish Influenced Indian Fiddle Music among Ojibwe, Cree, Menominee, and Mic Maq.

Week 12: Chicken Scratch Music in Southwest, Joanne Shenadoah, Lawrence Laughing, Paul Ortega, Ulali Mahk Chi, Blending Native Songs and Chants with Folk Guitar and Vocals.

Week 13: Country-Western Indian Bands and Folk Singers: Buddy Red Bow, Bill Miller, Lloyd Red Crow Westerman.

Week 14: New Age Artists, Movement of Flute from Courtship Music to Healing and Meditation Music. R. Carlos Nakai, Coyote Oldman, Mary Youngblood.

Week 15: Native Rock and Rap Artists. Apache Knife Wing. Litefoot, Tru Rez Crew.

Week 16: Review/Closing.