

Berklee College of Music, Valencia
Contemporary Performance
36-251
Global Music Concepts and Application
2 credits

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Course Description

As a compliment to western music education, “Global Music Concepts and Application” collects rhythms, melodies, harmonies, compositions, and improvisational techniques from various aural/oral based practices to teach musical global unity and collaboration. The course focuses on all aspects of music and how they interact together, so that the students may understand music as a whole in terms of musical dialects and concepts. Students will have the opportunity to perform, compose, and improvise using methods and techniques that may be foreign to their own musical background, but will be encouraged to incorporate their own traditions as well. Students will leave the course with a deeper, more inclusive, and diverse appreciation for music, and have the ability to collaborate between various musical dialects while still staying true to their own practices.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Recognize and recite simple and complex rhythms such as a Waltz, the concept of swing, Malfuf, Buleria, Teen tal, etc
- Describe music using terminology/concepts from different musical traditions, such as North and South Indian classical, Flamenco, and Arabic maqam, Western classical and Jazz.
- Analyze and compare/contrast music from these traditions
- Compose and perform music using different techniques found in different genres
- Improvise (singing and on instrument) using melodic and harmonic concepts from Hindustani, Maqam, Flamenco, and Jazz.

Class Activities

- Listening and analysis
- Rhythmic and melodic call and response
- Ensemble playing
- Group improvisation
- In class discussions

Course Materials

Students are highly encouraged to bring their instruments to every class, as well as a journal to use during listening and class discussions.

Listening examples can all be found on Youtube or Spotify.

Assessment Requirements

Students will be graded in a variety of different assignments both in and outside of class, either compositional performance, or reflection based. These weekly projects will count as work towards the larger midterm and final projects which will be up to the student to decide whether they wish to perform or compose a piece.

Grade Determination

The final grade is made up of 30% in class participation, 20% assignments, 25% midterm, 25% final.

Course Outline

Each week students will learn a new melody, rhythm, harmonic concept, and/or improvisational technique based on existing repertoire from North and South Indian classical music, Arabic maqam, African American Jazz, and Flamenco. Each week the concepts will become more complex, but will still focus on multiple forms of musical expression.

Universal Design:

While topics are mainly taught in an oral method, all topics will be available if needed in notation, and audio recordings. Student's assignments vary between performances, compositions, journaling, and presentations to offer different methods engagement and representation for different learning abilities.

Cultural Responsiveness

All course material is selected from various different cultures to give a more balanced and inclusive educational experience. While each topic will be presented and explained clearly, in no way does the course claim to give a full picture of any cultural expression, or give the students the validation to use cultural appropriation any of tradition that is not their own for artistic creation.