

## **Theory and Method of Ethnomusicology (GASP 133)**

### **Course Description**

Ethnographic research projects will give students some experience of the nitty-gritty of fieldwork and analysis. In-class discussions will focus primarily on theoretical aspects of the discipline of ethnomusicology, to be informed by students' practical experiences in the field.

### **Course Goals**

This class is intended to give students an in-depth understanding of the doing and thinking of ethnomusicology.

### **Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)**

By the end of the semester, students will:

- (1) design and implement an independent ethnographic research project both ethically and effectively.
- (2) demonstrate an understanding of the major theoretical and practical issues relevant to the discipline of ethnomusicology.

**To support student success coherently across ARTS coursework, these CLOs help students to reach the ARTS Program Learning Outcomes 1, 2, and 7:**

1. Describe art works in technical or theoretical terms.
2. Enlarge technical/theoretical vocabulary.
7. Understand, think and communicate critically the aesthetic, historical, cultural, social and contemporary aspects of the medium(media) they are studying.

### **This course fulfills the following guidelines for general education:**

#3. Communication: To convey information to and communicate and interact effectively with multiple audiences, using advanced skills in written and other modes of communication;

#4. Self and Society: To understand and value diverse perspectives in both the global and community contexts of modern society in order to work knowledgeably and effectively in an ethnically and culturally rich setting;

#5. Ethics and Responsibility: To follow ethical practices in their professions and communities, and care for future generations through sustainable living and environmental and societal responsibility;

#7. Aesthetic Understanding and Creativity: To appreciate and be knowledgeable about human creative expression, including literature and the arts

### **Evaluation**

Grading will be based on discussion leadership (15%), attendance and participation (20%), and an ethnographic research project. The research project will be subject to individual assignments over the semester, including a fieldsite proposal (5%), fieldnotes (5%), interview (5%), music transcription (5%), prospectus (5%), thesis statement (5%), outline (5%), final presentation (10%), and final paper submission (20%).

### **Course Materials**

Course readings will be scholarly articles, and will be made available through the library.

## **Course Schedule**

Day 1. Introductions

Day 2. Selecting a field site

Day 3. Fieldnotes

Day 4. Emics and etics

Day 5. Models for ethnomusicology

Day 6. Culture

Day 7. Interview techniques

Day 8. Structuralism

Day 9. Functionalism

Day 10. Transcription I

Day 11. Transcription II

Day 12. Transcription III

Day 13. Intellectual history of anthropology

Day 14. Intellectual history of ethnomusicology

Day 15. Ethical considerations

Day 16. Gender and reflexivity

Day 17. Culture revisited

Day 18. Ethnography and place

Day 19. The search for difference

Day 20. Speaking for others

Day 21. Feedback analysis

Day 22. Ethnographic film

Day 23. World music

Day 24-28. Final presentations