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 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