

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC
UNIVERSITY, POMONA

Course Title: MU 311 Music of
Mexico

Date of Preparation: 8/24/98, revised 07/14/09

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COURSE OUTLINE

I. Catalogue Description

MU 311 Music of Mexico (4 units)

Survey of Music and Dance of Mexico focusing on folk instruments and music patterns, cultural crossover between Hispanic and Indian music heritages. 4 lecture discussions.

II. Required Background or Experience

No prerequisites

III. Expected Outcomes

Students will acquire:

1. A clear understanding of the place of traditional musics in Mexican society
2. A general knowledge of the regional styles throughout Mexico
3. A thorough familiarity with at least one specific musical style from Mexico
4. An ability to participate in some way in the cultural life of Mexico through the performing arts.

IV. Text and Readings

Laura Garcia and David Kilpatrick. Mariachi: Traditional Music of Mexico

Robert M. Stevenson. Music in Mexico. (New York: Crowell, 1952)

Robert M. Stevenson. Music in Aztec and Inca Territory. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1968)

D. Malström. Introduction to Twentieth Century Mexican Music. (Uppsala, 1974)

C. af Segerstam. Popular Music in Mexico. (Albuquerque, 1976)

F. Toor. A Treasury of Mexican Folkways. (New York, 1947)

Various articles from journals and periodicals

V. Minimum Student Materials

Text, notebook

VI. Minimum College Facilities

Classroom with audiovisual equipment, internet access

VII. Course Outline

1. Fundamentals of music analysis and aesthetics of music and dance in Mexico
 - a) Data and resources for Mexican music - archives and human resources.
 - b) Music structures and style.
 - c) The participatory nature of traditional music in Mexico.
2. The ethnomusicological approach
 - a) Historical and cultural context.
 - b) Social functions of music and dance in Mexico.
 - c) Music, ethnicity, and cultural identity.
 - d) Economics, subsistence, and the performing arts in Mexico.
3. Regional styles and performance practices in Mexico
 - a) Eight geographic regions.
 - b) Demographic variations.
 - c) Organology and repertory.
 - d) Aural literature and vocal styles.
4. Indigenous music, folk music, popular music and classical music
 - a) Acculturation processes.
 - b) Modern communication systems, and venues for Mexican music performance.
 - c) Chicano music and the music of the Southwest United States of America.

VIII. Instructional Methods

1. Lectures
2. Representative musical examples that are performed in class whenever possible.
3. Field trips and in class presentations
4. Discussion and evaluation of live performance experiences.

IX. Evaluation of Outcomes

1. Evaluation of participation in discussions and classroom performances.
2. A project in the form of a research paper, an annotated video, DVD, or audio field recording.
3. Periodic written exams.