

MUSIC IN CHINA (HUMA 2108)

Spring 2024, Mon, 3-4:20 pm; Fri, 10:30-11:50 am

Instructor: Dr. Mercedes DUJUNCO

Email: hmercedu@ust.hk

Office: Academic Bldg. 3350

Office Tel.: 2358-7795

Office Hours: Tues, 1-5 pm or
by appointment

Approach & Objectives: This course will look at various forms of Chinese music, focusing on instrumental genres in particular. The goal is to provide students with a comprehensive knowledge of musical styles, concepts and recurring themes in Chinese music history. Although it is not the specific aim to present the history of Chinese music, the topical organization of the course will follow a chronological framework as attention is drawn to certain issues and prominent characteristics of music and musical life in China from the ancient times to the present. Material will be drawn from lecture-discussions, audio and video recordings and weekly assigned readings. Music listening is a major requirement for this course and will constitute a portion of the mid-term exam and the whole of the final exam.

Readings & Listenings: There is no required textbook for this course. However, there will be assigned selected readings for the topic taken up each week. Much of the information needed for understanding the content of this course is based on information contained in the reading listening and music video assignments as well as in class lectures which will be presented in PowerPoint slide presentations. The readings **are required** and are meant to supplement the lectures and will serve as important source materials for the short, written assignments and the required concert review. The links of most journal article readings and PDF copies of chapter readings from anthologies or monographs will be posted on Canvas; if not, they will be on "Reserve" at the library.

Music listening is a major requirement for this course and will constitute a portion of the class discussions and some of the short, written assignments. Audio recordings and video recordings (or their online links) corresponding to the topics that will be covered will be posted in Canvas.

Canvas Course Website: To ease administration of the class and facilitate communication, a Canvas website will be set up for this course. Registered students must enroll and be listed as authorized users to access the site. Make it a point to log on to our Canvas course site regularly every week to access the required readings, audio and video recordings, and read the assignment announcements, postings and discussion threads in preparation for class.

Course Requirements: Students are expected to complete all reading and listening assignments **before the class period for which they are assigned**. I reserve the right to give unscheduled pop

quizzes based on the lecture, reading and listening assignments if I notice that students are not paying attention or reviewing the material. There will be one midterm exam and one final exam. The midterm exam will cover the first half of the course. The final, however, will be comprehensive with emphasis placed on the second half of the course. Both midterm and final exam questions will be based upon material from the reading and listening assignments as well as the lectures.

REQUIRED Live Non-Western Music Concert Attendance & Concert Review. You are also required to attend a workshop-demo and a live concert performance of Chaozhou *xianshi* music, a type of wind-and-string ensemble music native to the Chaoshan region located in eastern Guangdong Province. The workshop-demo will be held on Monday, April 15, from 7:30-8:30 pm, at CYT-LTL; the concert will be held on Tuesday, April 16, from 7:30-9 pm at the Main Hall of the Shaw Auditorium. Attendance will be checked. You can also choose to attend and write a review of another non-Western musical tradition studied in class. The review must fill up a minimum of 4 pages of text in Times New Roman 12 pt. font, double-spaced.

The review is intended as an exercise which requires you to take the role of an ethnomusicologist reporting on and evaluating a musical event for an audience of non-expert readers based on what you have learned in this course. It is expected to include the following:

- a) Relevant background information on the music culture
- b) Reporting of the event
- c) Interpretation/analysis and criticism

Specific guidelines for writing the concert review will be available in "FILES" in Canvas.

Grading Breakdown:

Class attendance & active participation	15%
Written assignments	10%
Midterm exam	25%
Concert Review	25%
Final exam	25%

Class Policies:

- Attendance will be taken throughout the semester.
- In the case of any recorded lectures, viewership will be checked.
- You may miss 3 classes without penalty, but starting from your 4th absence, one percent will be deducted for each absence.
- Participation in class will also play a factor in your attendance score.
- Online & Pop Quizzes: As mentioned earlier, I reserve the right to give unscheduled pop quizzes based on the lectures if I feel students are not paying attention or reviewing the material. The quizzes are designed to help prepare you for your Midterm and Final Exams. Review the PowerPoint slides, your class notes, reading notes and listening notes

periodically. The grades resulting from any online and pop quizzes will go towards “participation”.

- NO make-up exam or test will be offered ****unless the absence is due to an emergency, medical or otherwise, and a valid medical certificate signed by a doctor and/or other valid written proof attesting to the emergency is submitted.****
- Discussion posts will be graded on participation and will be used to give you an opportunity to ponder on some music-related issues we are discussing in class.
- Absolute grading system will be used to calculate your final letter grade.
- If you are being dishonest in the course, the penalty is an “F” for the COURSE. Cheating and plagiarism are grounds for being given an “F” and failing the course.

Cheating: a) If you look at other students’ papers or materials (ex. notes) during exam or test; b) If you claim credit for another student’s work in group projects.

Plagiarism: If you copy sections and/or ideas from a source without referencing it. Excerpt from <http://www.ust.hk/vpaao/integrity/Links to an external site.>

Sample Readings:

- Dujunco, Mercedes M. 2001. “Ensembles: *Xianshiyue*.” From *The Garland Encyclopedia of World Music, Vol. 7: East Asia: China, Japan and Korea*. Ed. By Robert Provine, Yoshiko Tokumaru, and J. Lawrence Witzleben (New York: Routledge), pp. 211-16.
- Silverberg, Ann. 2023. *A Contemporary History of the Chinese Zheng*. HK: Hong Kong University Press (relevant pages TBA).
- Thrasher, Alan. 1981. “The Sociology of Chinese Music,” *Asian Music* 12(2).
- Witzleben, J. Lawrence. 1987. “*Jiangnan Sizhu* Music Clubs in Shanghai: Context, Concept and Identity.” *Ethnomusicology* 31(2).

COURSE OUTLINE & TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

Week 1: Music in Chinese Culture (Feb. 2, 5, 9)

Week 2: The Chinese Music System (Feb. 16, 19)

- Ethics, Correspondences and Sympathetic Resonance
- Confucian and Taoist Aesthetics

Week 3: Music of the Literati: The Music of the *Qin* Zither (Feb. 23, 26)

- Aesthetics and Kinesthetics of the *Qin* Zither

- *Qin* Zither Notation

Week 4: Music of the Literati: *Kunqu* Opera (Mar. 1, 4)

Weeks 5 & 6: Music of the People: *Guzheng* Zither Traditions – The Henan, Shandong, Chaozhou & Kejia “Schools” (Mar. 8, 11, 15)

Weeks 7 & 8: *Sizhu* Music – *Jiangnan Sizhu* & *Fujian Nanyin* (Mar. 18, 22, 25)

****MIDTERM EXAM – April 5****

Week 7 & 8: Music of the People: *Sizhu* Music – *Chaozhou Xianshi*, *Kejia Hanyue* & *Guangdong Yinyue* (Apr. 8, 12, 15)

****REQUIRED ATTENDANCE:** 1) Chaozhou *Xianshi* Music Workshop, April 15, 7:30 pm, CYT-LTL
2) Chaozhou *Xianshi* Music Concert, April 16, 7:30 pm, Shaw Auditorium

Week 9: Music of the People: *Guchui/Chuida* Music (April 19)

Week 10-11: Continuity & Change in Chinese Music (April 22, 26)

Week 11-12: Music as a Function of Politics (April 29, May 3)

Week 13: Chinese Popular Music (May 6, 10)

****FINAL EXAM – DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED****