

**MUSL 3325 – Music on the Border**  
**University of Texas at El Paso**  
**Fall 2019**

**Dr. Andrea Shaheen Espinosa**

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**FFA room 441; 747-7824**

**Office Hours: by appointment**

**Class Meeting Times:** MW 1:30-2:50 pm; Fox Fine Arts Center, M101

**Course Description**

This course explores the ways that music, as expressive culture, represents individual and communal identities within physical and imagined borderlands. Throughout the semester, we will examine various genres, artists, and styles, and consider the transnational and transcultural performance and consumer contexts of border music. By analyzing diverse musical traditions in the U.S.-Mexico borderland, we will develop critical listening skills and redefine categorizations of musical styles. We will consider the ways that music informs and is informed by notions of race, nationality, religion, and gender. Throughout the semester, students will engage with performing musicians and audience members in the local community, which requires the application of the concepts and methods learned in class in order to complete ethnomusicological fieldwork assignments.\* Additionally, via in-class discussions and at-home assignments, students will reflect on their own musical tastes and positionalities, and how the ways that they musick inform their individual identities.

**Course Objectives**

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

1. Conceptualize music as a cultural product and realize various indications.
2. Identify and discern musical characteristics typical to the traditions studied.
3. Become familiar with Border Studies.
4. Understand selected theories and principles of Ethnomusicology.
5. Become comfortable utilizing multimedia resources concerning music.
6. Engage with the local community via fieldwork exercises (builds communication skills and increases social justice and social responsibility awareness).
7. Contextualize learned concepts and themes in daily life.

**Required Texts and Applications**

Madrid, Alejandro L., (Ed.). (2001) *Transnational Encounters: Music and Performance at the U.S.-Mexico Border*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Additional readings will be assigned and are available on our Blackboard site under “Articles/Excerpts”.

**Required Work** (Additional details and guidelines will be provided in class)

- A. Fieldwork and Mini-Ethnography Project: This authoring project will require you to engage with the local community via exercises in ethnomusicological fieldwork. This assignment is worth 40% of the final grade.
- B. Online Journals: These assignments will most frequently coordinate with weekly readings and in general will be one to two pages in length. Students will be expected to complete each journal by responding on to questions and reflection exercises posted on Blackboard. The combined total of these projects will count for 40% of the final grade.
- C. Attendance and Participation: Regular attendance and participation in in-class discussions is mandatory and will count for 10% of the final grade. More than two unexcused absences may result in the lowering of the student’s final earned grade.

**Grading Scale:** 90-100%= A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; below 60% = E

\*Students unable to complete the community engagement assignment due to extenuating circumstances may choose to “opt out” of the assignment. Dr. Shaheen Espinosa will provide a comparable assignment via Blackboard.

### **Support Website**

For additional details, links to websites, resources, regular updates the Work Schedule, and access to your grades for MUSL 3324, consult our class **Blackboard**: <http://blackboard.utep.edu>, and follow the log-in instructions.

*\*Students are responsible for checking the course Blackboard site **frequently** for changes and updates!\**

### **EMAIL**

The most effective way to communicate with the professor is through UTEP or Blackboard email. When composing email for this course, you must do the following:

1. Include your course number and first and last name in the SUBJECT line as follows:  
MUSL 3325; Jane Smith
2. Begin the email with “Dear Prof. Shaheen:” or any standard salutation.
3. Indicate the specific assignment (DOR-3, or Concert Review, etc.) in the body of your email.
4. Conclude the email with a formal closing such as “Sincerely, Jane Smith”, etc. You must sign with your full name.

### **Classroom Conduct**

By enrolling in this course, the student agrees to abide by the following rules. Violating one or more of these rules may result in the lowering of the student’s grade or the removal of the student from the course through an administrative drop.

1. No talking during the professor’s lecture.
2. All electronic devices (**cell phones**, MP3 players, etc.) are prohibited in class. This means they are silenced and out of sight.
3. In order to use a laptop in class, the student must sit in the first two rows. **USE OF INTERNET IS PROHIBITED** – laptops are allowed only to facilitate note taking.
4. The professor reserves the right to lock the door once the lecture has begun. If you arrive late and the door is locked, you may not enter class that day.
5. Communication of any form is prohibited during quizzes and exams. Any student who participates in such behavior will be asked to leave the room immediately and may be dropped from the course with a grade of “F”. Furthermore, the student may face academic dishonesty charges at UTEP.

### **Additional Expectations**

In addition to responsible attendance, it is expected that all students in this class know and will adhere to university policies regarding conduct, behavior, and academic integrity. Students who continuously violate the classroom rules will receive a severe penalty to their semester grade if they are not administratively dropped from the course.

### **Disabilities Statement**

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass).

### **Late Work**

Late DORs may only earn up to half credit if accepted by the professor.

Your final project will automatically be lowered an entire letter grade if it is not handed in on or before Dec 10<sup>th</sup>. In addition, you will continue to lose 5 points for each additional day it is late.

### **Work Schedule**

Assignments are to be completed by the date listed. The instructor reserves the right to change the schedule at any time. Additional readings may be assigned.

B = Blackboard