

Department of Anthropology

ANTHRO 2276B -650

The Anthropology of Music

BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE

Summer 2025

Date: March 5, 2025

Instructor and course information:

Instructor: Dr. K. Olsen (she/her)

Method of delivery: Asynchronous online.

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: None.

Please ensure you have the correct requisites by checking the Academic Calendar:

<https://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/Courses.cfm?Subject=ANTHRO&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#top>

Course Description:

In this course, we will take an anthropological approach to exploring music as an aspect of culture in the present and the past and focus on how music is used to negotiate individual and collective identities in multiple world contexts. Methods and issues relating to the ethnographic study of music behaviours are a key focus area for this course. We will also explore material from cultural studies of music, archaeology, and biological anthropology to help inform a broad understanding of music culture.

A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course's OWL Brightspace site before the first day of class.

Course Materials:

There is no required textbook or cost for this course. Required readings will be available through the Course Readings tool on the course site.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on the following:

- Ten quizzes (multiple-choice questions, 1 quiz per module)
- Five weekly activities (participation in short survey, reflection, discussion or other learning activity)
- Midterm (multiple-choice questions, covers first three weeks of term)
- Music and Identity Group Assignment and Presentation (exploring the cultural, social, and political changes that have shaped musical experiences through personal reflections, conversations with peers, and connections to course content)

- Final Exam (multiple-choice questions, cumulative)

Evaluation Breakdown:

- Module Quizzes (10 x 1%) 10%
- Weekly Activities (5 x 3%) 15%
- Midterm 15%
- Group Assignment & Presentation 35%
- Final Exam 25%

~ End ~