Midland College
MUSI 1310
History of Latin American Music

Course Description: This course satisfies the Humanities/Fine Arts core requirement; i.e.,
understanding the heritage and destiny of humanity as revealed
through history, ideas, literature, and aesthetics. It is a basic survey
course concerned with the Musical Cultures of Latin America.

available in the MC Bookstore

Course Goals/Objectives: Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Understand the historical background of the development of Latin
American Music.
2. Understand and demonstrate writing and speaking processes
through invention, organization, drafting, revision, editing and
presentation.
3. Comprehend the creative process and the physical and intellectual
demands required of the artist;
4. Understand and apply basic principles of critical thinking, problem
solving, and technical proficiency in the development of exposition
and argument.
5. Understand Latin American Music as an expression of individual
values within an historical and social context.
6. Articulate an informed personal reaction to Latin American Musical
Styles.
7. Demonstrate knowledge of the influence of Latin American Music
on intercultural experiences

Student Responsibilities and Class Policies:
Class activities and assignments: Students are expected to watch the presentations and
study the readings in the textbook. Study of the text is extremely important, both for its
own sake and as a background for the presentations. The student is expected to think
critically and communicate clearly, both orally and in writing. Students are required to
prepare an Analysis Paper demonstrating an understanding of the basic elements of
musical composition. Details of the assignment will be provided in a handout which you
will find in the assignments section of the website.
Evaluation of Students: There will be 8 quizzes over the reading assignments and presentations. The quizzes will be posted in the examination section of the course website on the dates listed in the course schedule. Students may take the quizzes as many times as they need to in order to receive a passing score. The average of the seven quizzes will count as 50% of the final grade. The lowest quiz score will be dropped from the overall average. The Analysis Paper will count as 35% of the final grade. Your papers should be returned with a grade within one week. If you haven't heard from me within a week's time, please re-submit the paper. Usually attaching the file to an e-mail message will work fine, provided that its a .doc (Microsoft Word) or .rtf file. Don't bother to submit Works files to me-my computer won't read them. WARNING: I will not tolerate plagiarism. Students who submit papers that have been copied off websites will receive an automatic score of 0 for their papers, so cheating will always result in a failing grade for the course. The first quiz will be available only at the Midland College testing center. It will be a proctored examination, so please take the time to get to the testing center on the main campus and take the examination.

Students are also required to participate in the course discussion board. Fifteen percent of the grade will be based on discussion board participation. Students must submit an entry as well as a response to El Bistro, the course discussion board, for each major section of the course. The entries must involve your reaction to a musical example that we are studying during each major course segment. Please use intelligent musical terms (timbre, melody, harmony, texture, rhythm) for your discussion of the example: avoid ideas like "I don't like this piece," or "this piece stinks." The instructor will also participate in the discussion board by asking for clarification and providing questions for further investigation.

Numerical grades, in percentages, equate to letter grades as follows: 90-100, A; 80-89, B; 70-79, C; 60-69, D; below 60, F. Tests are comprehensive and measure the student's knowledge and understanding of the course content through multiple choice questions. The final course grade will indicate the student's degree of success in meeting the course goals and objectives.