INTRODUCTION

This seminar reviews recent theoretical perspectives on race, nationalism, and music, both from within ethno/musicology and beyond, including general works and a series of specific studies articulating music's relationship to such projects and ideas. Examining how musical representations and experiences figure in the creation of public and private notions of race and nation, our course grapples with music's power to mediate imagined and inscribed cartographies of self and other.

While the course will give students a broad foundation for discussing matters of music, race, and nationalism, our study of various forms of modern encounter with musical difference centers on European imperialism, the transatlantic African diaspora, and their myriad intersections. Coursework will center on readings (typically between 80-100 pages/week) and in-class discussion, brief weekly writing assignments, and a final paper of students’ own design.

REQUIRED TEXTS


These two books are available via various online or local retailers. All other readings will be accessible via the course website.

ASSIGNMENTS / GRADING

1) Attendance & class participation 25%
2) Weekly responses: weeks 2-11 (10 total) 50%
   By 9am every Wednesday, please submit via email a brief—2-3 paragraphs—synthesis & analysis (i.e., synopsis & critique) of the week's readings. You are encouraged to pick a subject or site of your own to consistently bring into dialogue with each week’s readings (albeit a malleable one; you won’t be held to your start-of-semester subject for the final paper). This should offer a way to build one’s own argument over the term, putting various authors into a conversation that allows you to narrate your own inquiry about music, race and nation. In addition to giving the readings some context and engagement, our aim here will be to work on precision, conciseness, and style in our writing.

3) Final paper (10-15 pages) 25%
WEEKLY TOPICS & READINGS

Week 1 / Sept 5  Introduction
Guiding questions, syllabus review, preliminary discussion

Week 2 / Sept 12 Race, Ethnicity & Music - General Concepts


Week 3 / Sept 19 Race & Empire, Part 1 (Encounter & Representation)


Week 4 / Sept 26 Race & Empire, Part 2 (Empire Strikes Back?)
Week 5 / Oct 3  Black Music (in the USA)


Week 6 / Oct 10  Sounds of Africa


Week 7 / Oct 17  Race & Nation in Latin America

Turino, Thomas. “Nationalism and Latin American Music:
Selected Case Studies and Theoretical Considerations.”


**Week 8 / Oct 24**  
*(Afro)Diaspora Theory*


**Week 9 / Oct 31**  
*Diaspora as Source & Challenge, Part 1*


**Week 10 / Nov 7**  
*Diaspora as Source & Challenge, Part 2*


Week 11 / Nov 14  Music, Race & Transnation


Week 12 / Nov 28  Audiotopia?


December 12  Final Papers due