

Middle Eastern and North African Music Ensemble (Music x48) 2010-2011

Meetings: Thursday evenings, 6:30 – 9:30 PM, Fine Arts Building 2-27 (Studio 27)

Professor: Michael Frishkopf

Office: 347 Arts Building (Canadian Centre for Ethnomusicology/folkwaysAlive)

Office hours: Wednesday 1:00 – 2:00 PM (334D Old Arts Building), or by appointment

Tel: 780-492-0225

Email: michaelf@ualberta.ca

TA: Mahsa Pakravan, pakravan@ualberta.ca

Goals of the course:

- To introduce you to music of the MENA (Middle Eastern and North African) region, including music of Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Hebrew, Kurdish, Berber, Nubian, Armenian, and other linguistic groups, through performance
- To become attuned to the rich culture and history of this region, through its music
- To gain theoretical and practical understanding of Arab music theory, including melodic modes (*maqamat*) and rhythmic modes (*durub*)
- To develop musical skills, including the ability to perform in the modes, and some facility in improvisation.
- To learn, practice, and polish a core repertoire of songs and instrumental pieces.
- To present performances of this repertoire to the University and Edmonton communities several times during the year. Off-campus, such performances will typically be educational or fund-raiser benefits for good causes. We will perform in the annual World music sampler (Sunday, Nov 21, 2010, 2 pm), and in a final ensemble concert March 24, 2011 (both in Convocation Hall).

Notes:

- Private music lessons are not available through this course, but arrangements may be possible; see instructor. Also see the instructor if you wish to purchase any instruments.
- Some percussion instruments are available for borrowing.
- Singing is central to this music and the chorus can accommodate any number of participants.
- All continuous-pitch instruments are welcome, even if they are not traditionally used in Arab music. Violin, viola, cello, and bass all work well.
- Neither the ability to read musical notation nor prior musical or cultural experience is required.
- Aural training is central.
- We will all experiment with improvisation in the melodic modes (*taqasim*).
- You will require access to the Internet in order to obtain course materials, and receive email announcements (please be sure to provide your email address.)
- *Please come to class on time!* And please limit mid-class breaks to 15 minutes (usually 8:00 to 8:15 PM).

Requirements:

- Participation: Your grade will depend on regular, *punctual* attendance, and active, energetic involvement. We will take attendance every Thursday.
- Listening, and practicing: it is crucial to listen and to practice as much as possible.
- Self-assessment: a 2-3 page self-assessment is to be submitted (via email) at the end of each term, in which you'll document your progress during the previous term, including a list of pieces, modes, and rhythms mastered, and a discussion of difficulties encountered. The student should be prepared to demonstrate this mastery to the instructor during the last class of each term.
- Keeping all handouts organized in a binder. Please remember to bring your binder to each class, and don't take more than one copy of each handout.
- Photocopying and equipment fee (\$20). Because the department budget is limited, we ask all group members (whether you are enrolled in the course or not) to contribute \$20 to cover photocopying and other expenses associated with our use of Music Department equipment and space.
- NB: There will be no other exams, quizzes, or other papers assigned, except for those enrolling in Music 548, who should consult the instructor to arrange for preparation of a research paper.

Grading:

For Music 148, 248,348,448:

- ½ participation and general involvement in classes
- ½ self-assessment

For Music 548 (graduate level), the research paper, participation/involvement, and self-assessment will each count for one-third of the final grade.

Note: If you are a student, you should encode your Onecard to provide access to Studio 27. Ask in the Music Office (382 FAB) for details. There is only one designated day for encoding early in each term. If you are not a student but wish to have access, please see the instructor.

Learning resources:

- Handouts (music notation and lyrics). Please keep these arranged alphabetically in a binder for easy reference.
- The class wiki: <http://bit.ly/mename>
- Instruments (mainly percussion, available for signout and practice in the instrument room adjoining Studio 27)
- Other members of the ensemble.

Evaluation:

Grading is on a scale from 0-4.

A:	4.0
A-:	3.7
B+:	3.3
B:	3.0
B-:	2.7
C+:	2.3
C:	2.0
C-:	1.7
D+:	1.3
D:	1.0
F:	0.0

Academic integrity and course outlines

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.ualberta.ca/secretariat/appeals.htm) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University. (GFC 29 SEP 2003)

Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) of the University Calendar.” (GFC 29 SEP 2003).