Music and Society Syllabus
Summer 2014

Instructor: Mustafa Avci | muavci@ku.edu.tr | Office: Sos 133

Course Description

Music and Society is a sociological survey on music, which is often described as a “human condition”. Starting with the fundamental question of what music is, throughout the course we will analyze social, economic, and political dynamics underlying music, as a cultural and performative practice. The course is designed in two parts: The first part aims at introducing the student with fundamental theoretical concepts in Sound Studies (ethnomusicology, musicology, sociology of music, and anthropology of music and dance). The second part is designed to familiarize student with the soundscapes of Turkey as well as the Ottoman Empire. This will involve a close scrutiny of local musical traditions (such as Turkish, Kurdish, Armenian, Greek, Jewish, Alevit, Hip hop, Arabesk, and classical Turkish music) in the political, social and economic contexts within which they are created.

Grading

Quizzes and Class participation: (includes keeping up with the reading and listening assignments and actively participating in class discussions)

Part I Basic Concepts - Historical Part

Week 1
What is Music?

John Cage. 4’33”. Cramps Records, 1952.

Week 2
Why do we study music? and the Soundscape

Soundscape:
Week 3
Dance as Human Condition, Homo Ludens
- Whirling Dervishes 2 -Sufism, Mevlana Rumi, Trance Dance, 2008. Youtube
- The Biggest Concert and Crowd Ever - Woodstock 2011. Youtube

Case Study:
Turkish Popular Music and Gender: Our Sun of Art, Zeki Müren

Classroom Code of Conduct
Students at Koç University are required to adhere to classroom code of conduct and to refrain from all forms of unacceptable behavior during lectures. The activities which are prohibited in class include and are not limited to:
• Engaging in side conversations.
• Using cell phones and other electronic devices.
• All cell phones should be switched off before entering the lecture room. If you expect a very important call, please switch your phone to silent mode and let your professor know in advance that you may receive a call.
• Using laptops for purposes that are not course-related.
• Arriving late or leaving early without the prior permission of the instructor.
• If you have to leave during class for an emergency, please try to minimize the disruption.
• Reading material, e.g., magazines, newspapers, novels etc., that are not course-related.
• Working on personal activities or the assignments of other courses.
• Interrupting the professor or other students.
• Students should request permission from the instructor before asking questions or making comments.
• Trashing the classroom.
• Eating and drinking are allowed as long as impact on others is minimized and students clean up their garbage after class.
• Failure to comply with the Classroom Code of Conduct may result in dismissal from class and disciplinary action.
Statement on Academic Honesty with Emphasis on Plagiarism

Koç University expects all its students to perform course-related activities in accordance with the rules set forth in the Student Code of Conduct (http://vpaa.ku.edu.tr/academic/studentcode-of-conduct). Actions considered as academic dishonesty at Koç University include but are not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and impersonating. This statement’s goal is to draw attention to cheating and plagiarism related actions deemed unacceptable within the context of Student Code of Conduct:

All individual assignments must be completed by the student himself/herself, and all team assignments must be completed by the members of the team, without the aid of other individuals. If a team member does not contribute to the written documents or participate in the activities of the team, his/her name should not appear on the work submitted for evaluation.

Plagiarism is defined as ‘borrowing or using someone else’s written statements or ideas without giving written acknowledgement to the author’. Students are encouraged to conduct research beyond the course material, but they must not use any documents prepared by current or previous students, or notes prepared by instructors at Koç University or other universities without properly citing the source.