

Music/Folklore 915/Anthro 940: Seminar in Ethnomusicology

Caribbean Music: Mobile Sounds, Creole Identities

Spring 2014

Tuesdays, 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Social Science Building, 5230

Instructor

Jerome Camal

Office: Social Science Building, 5313

Email: camal@wisc.edu

Twitter: @jscamal

Office hours: Wed. from 2:00 to 4:00 pm or by appointment.

Description

The course will explore musics of the Caribbean basin from sonic, kinesic, and theoretical perspectives, with a special emphasis on contemporary forms such as Trinidadian calypso and soca, Dominican bachata, or Jamaican roots and dancehall reggae. We will also examine transnational styles which have had a special impact on North American music, reggaeton most particularly. In addition to reading recent scholarship in Caribbean music studies, we will survey key texts by anthropologists as well as cultural and postcolonial theorists such as Stuart Hall, Edouard Glissant, and Antonio Benítez-Rojo. Together these readings will enable us to engage with the lasting impact of colonialism, internal and international politics, tourism, migration, and technology on the development and significance of musical styles. Furthermore, by investigating important concepts in the study of Caribbean culture such as creolization, diaspora, and translation, this course will demonstrate how the region remains an important crucible for the wider understanding of identity categories like race, gender, and nationality.

This seminar is open to all graduate students. Although students will be expected to attend to the sound of music, knowledge of music notation and theory is not required.

Schedule

January 21

Introduction

Reading

Bilby, Kenneth. 1985. "The Caribbean as a musical region." In *Caribbean contours*, edited by Sidney Mintz and Sally Price. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. 181-218.

Trouillot, Michel-Rolph. 1992. "The Caribbean region: An open frontier in anthropological theory." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 21: 19-42.

Manuel, Peter. 2006. "Five themes in the study of Caribbean music." In *Caribbean currents: Caribbean music from rumba to reggae*, revised and expanded edition. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. 271-290.

January 28

The thorny question of retention

Reading

Herskovits, Melville J. 1990. *The Myth of the Negro Past*. Boston: Beacon Press. Original edition, 1941. Read chapter 1.

Waterman, Richard A. 1963. "On flogging a dead horse: lessons learned from the Africanisms controversy." *Ethnomusicology* 7 (2): 83-87.

Maultsby, Portia K. 1990. "Africanisms in African-American Music." In *Africanisms in American Culture*, edited by Joseph E. Holloway. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.

Davis, Martha Ellen. 1994. "'Bi-Musicality' in the Cultural Configurations of the Caribbean." *Black Music Research Journal* 14 (2): 145-60.

Palmié, Stephan. 2008. "Introduction: on Predications of Africanity." In *Africas in the Americas: Beyond the Search for Origins in the Study of Afro-Atlantic Religions*, edited by Stefan Palmié. Leiden: Brill Academic Publishing. 1-37

Listening

From the Dominican Republic:

Enerolisa Núñez y el Grupo de Salve de Mata los Indios, "India del agua."

February 4

Creolization: Anthropological perspectives

Reading

- Bolland, O. Nigel. 1998. "[Creolisation and Creole Societies: a Cultural Nationalist View of Caribbean Social History.](#)" *Caribbean Quarterly* 44 (1-2): 1-32.
- Mintz, Sidney W., and Richard Price. 1992. *The Birth of African-American Culture: an Anthropological Perspective*. Boston: Beacon Press. Original edition, 1976. Read chapters 1, 4, and 5.
- Hannerz, Ulf. 1987. "The World in Creolisation." *Africa: Journal of the International African Institute* 57 (4): 546-59.
- Palmié, Stefan. 2007. "Is There a Model in the Muddle? "Creolization" in African Americanist History and Anthropology." In *Creolization: History, ethnography, theory*, edited by Charles Stewart. 178-200.
- Khan, Aisha. 2007. "Creolization Moments." In *Creolization*, edited by Charles Stewart. 237-253.

February 11

Identity and metaphors of creolization in the Caribbean and beyond

Reading

- Hall, Stuart. 1995. "Negotiating Caribbean Identity." *New Left Review* I(209) 3-14.
- Hall, Stuart. 2010 (Original 2004). "Créolité and the process of creolization." In *Creolization reader*, edited by Robin Cohen and Paola Toninano. London: Routledge. 26-38.
- Benitez Rojo, Antonio. 1992. "Introduction." In *The Repeating island: the Caribbean and the postmodern perspective*, translated by James Maraniss. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. 1-29
- Glissant, Edouard. 1989. "[Beyond Babel.](#)" *World Literature Today* 63 (4): 561-64.
- Schwieger Hiepko. 2011. "Europe and the Antilles: An Interview with Edouard Glissant." In *The Creolization of Theory*, edited by Françoise Lionnet and Shu-mei Shih. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Chancé, Dominique. "Creolization: Definition and Critique." In *The Creolization of Theory*. Durham: Duke University Press.

February 18

Diaspora

Reading

- Clifford, James. 1997. "Diaspora." In *Routes: Travel and Translation in the Late Twentieth Century*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1997. 244-277.

- Hall, Stuart. 1990. "Cultural identity and diaspora." In *Identity: Community, Culture, Difference*, edited by Jonathan Rutherford. London: Lawrence and Wishart. 222-237.
- Gilroy, Paul 1991. "[Sounds authentic: black music, ethnicity and the challenge of the Changing Same.](#)" *Black Music Research Journal* 11 (2): 111-36.
- Patterson, Tiffany Ruby, and Robin DG Kelley. 2000. "[Unfinished migrations: reflections on the African diaspora and the making of the modern world.](#)" *African Studies Review* 43 (1): 11-45.
- Edwards, Brent Hayes. 2001. "[The uses of diaspora.](#)" *Social Text* 19 (1): 45-73.

February 25

The French Antilles Zouk and créolité

Reading

- Bernabé, Jean, Patrick Chamoiseau, and Raphaël Confiant. 1993 [1989]. *Eloge de la créolité / In praise of creoleness*. Paris: Gallimard. Selections TBA.
- Guilbault, Jocelyne. 1994. "Créolité and the New Cultural Politics of Difference in Popular Music of the French West Indies." *Black Music Research* 14(2): 161-178.
- Gallagher, Mary. 2007. "The Créolité Movement: Paradoxes of a French Caribbean Orthodoxy." In *Creolization*, edited by Charles Stewart. 220-236.

Listening

- Kassav', "Soley" (1987, zouk)
- Jacob Desvarieux, "Banzawa" (1983, zouk)

March 4

Santería

Reading

- Hagedorn, Katherine. 2001. *Divine Utterances: The Performance of Afro-Cuban Santería*. Washington: Smithsonian Books

Listening

- CD accompanying *Divine Utterances*.

March 11

Haiti

Reading

- Averill, Gage. 1989. "[Haitian dance bands, 1915-1970: class, race, and authenticity.](#)" *Latin American Music Review/Revista de Música Latinoamericana* 10 (2): 203-35.

Averill, Gage and Yuen-Ming David Yih. 2000. "Militarism in Haitian Music." In *The African Diaspora: A Musical Perspective*, edited by Ingrid Monson. New York and London: Garland Publishing. 267-293.

McAlister, Elizabeth. 2002. "[Chapter 7: Rara in New York City.](#)" In *Rara! Vodou, Power, and Performance in Haiti and Its Diaspora*. Berkeley: University of California Press. (You may also want to skim "Introducing Rara" for some background info.)

Largey, Michael. 2006. "Visions of Vodou in African American Operas about Haiti." In *Vodou Nation: Haitian Art Music and Cultural Nationalism*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 147-185.

McAlister, Elizabeth. 2012. "[Soundscapes of Disaster and Humanitarianism: Survival Singing, Relief Telethons, and the Haiti Earthquake.](#)" *Small Axe* 16 (3 39): 22-38.

Listening

TBA

March 18

Spring Break

March 25

Trinidad: Nationalism and transnational religion

Reading

Rommen, Timothy. 2007. "*Mek Some Noise*": *Gospel Music and the Ethics of Style in Trinidad*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Listening

TBA

April 1

Trinidad: Nationalism and diaspora

Reading

Guilbault, Jocelyne. 2007. *Governing sound: The cultural politics of Trinidad's carnival musics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Listening

CD accompanying *Governing sound*.

April 8

The Bahamas: Mobility and identity

Reading

Rommen, Timothy. 2011. *Funky Nassau: Roots, routes, and representation in Bahamian popular music*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Listening

All listening examples are available on Spotify.

Ed Moxey's Rake and Scrape, "Times Table," "Big Belly Man Polka."

Thomas Cartwright and the Boys, "Nobody's Darling but Mine."

The Beginning of the End, "Funky Nassau (Part 1 & 2)."

Baha Men, "Back to the Island," "Gin and Coconut Water," "Let Your Body Move to the Rhythm," "Mo' Junkanoo."

April 15

Jamaica: Diaspora and technology

Reading

Stolzoff, Norman C. 2000. *Wake the Town and Tell the People: Dancehall Culture in Jamaica*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press Books. Selections TBA.

Manuel, Peter and Wayne Marshall. 2006. "The Riddim Method: Aesthetics, Practice, and Ownership in Jamaican Dancehall." *Popular Music* 25(3): 447-470.

Henriques, Julian. 2008. "Sonic Diaspora, Vibrations, and Rhythm: Thinking through the Sounding of the Jamaican Dancehall Session." *African and Black Diaspora: An International Journal* 1 (2): 215-36.

Stanley Niaah, Sonjah. 2010. "Dance, Divas, Queens, and Kings: Dance and Culture in Jamaican Dancehall." In *Making Caribbean dance: Continuity and creativity in island cultures*, edited by Susanna Sloat. Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida. 132-148.

Listening

Sound Dimension, "Real Rock"

Joe Tex, Welton Irie, U-Black, "Friday Evening"

Sizzla, "Keep in Touch"

April 22

Jamaica: Gender and sexuality

Reading

Thomas, Deborah A. 2004. "Chapter 7: Modern Blackness, or Theoretical 'Trippin' on Black Vernacular Culture" In *Modern Blackness: Nationalism, Globalization, and the Politics of Culture in Jamaica*. Durham: Duke University Press. (Skim through the section "What is Jamaica to Me?" but read everything else.)

Cooper, Carolyn. 2004. "Lady Saw cuts loose: Female fertility rituals in the dancehall." In *Sound clash: Jamaican dancehall culture at large*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan. 99-123.

Cooper, Carolyn. 2004. "'Mama, Is That You?' Erotic Disguise in the Films Dancehall Queen and Babymother." In *Sound Clash: Jamaican Dancehall Culture At Large*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. 125-144.

Ellis, Nadia. 2011. "[Out and Bad: Toward a Queer Performance Hermeneutic in Jamaican Dancehall](#)." *Small Axe: A Caribbean Journal of Criticism* 15 (2 35): 7-23.

Watching

Dancehall Queen. 1997. Directed by Rick Elgood and Don Letts.

Listening

Shabba Ranks, "Dem Bow"
, "Wicked in the Bed"

Lady Saw, "Stab Out Me Meat"

April 29

Reggaeton and Bachata: Transnationalism

Reading

Deborah Pacini Hernández. 2003. "Amalgamating musics: popular music and cultural hybridity in the Americas." In *Musical migrations, Volume 1: Transnationalism and cultural hybridity in Latin/o America*, edited by Frances R. Aparicio and Cándida F. Jáquez. 13-32.

Wayne Marshall. 2008. "Dem Bow, dembow, dembo: Translation and transnation in Reggaeton." *Songs and popular culture* 53. 131-51.

Deborah Pacini Hernández. 2009. "Dominicans in the mix: reflections on Dominican identity, race, and reggaeton." In *Reggaeton*, edited by Raquel Z. Rivera, Wayne Marshall, and Debora Pacini Hernandez. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. 135-164.

Félix Jiménez. 2009. "(W)rapped in foil: Glory at twelve words a minute." In *Reggaeton*. 229-251.

Listening

Little Lenny, "Punnaney Tegereg" (1991)

El General, "Tu Pun Pun" (1991)
Shabba Ranks. "Dem Bow" (1991)
Lisa M., "El Pum Pum" (1991)
Playero, "Raagga Mix to Mix" (1994)
King Daddy Yod, "Delbor" (2006)
Daddy Yankee. "Gasolina" (2004)
N.O.R.E. "Oye mi canto" (2004)
Aventura and Don Omar. "Ella y yo" (2005)
Calle 13, "Pal Norte" (2007)

May 6

Cuba: The Local Politics of Transnational Musics

Reading

Baker, Geoffrey. 2011. *Buena Vista in the Club: Rap and Reggaeton in Havana*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Listening

Buena Vista Social Club. "Chan Chan" (1996)
Obsesión. "La llaman puta" (n.d.)
Orishas. "537 C.U.B.A." (2007)
Gente de Zona. "El Animal" (2008)
Check out Los Aldeanos' MySpace page: <http://www.myspace.com/losaldeanos>