Caribbean Music:
Mobile Sounds, Creole Identities

Spring 2014
Tuesdays, 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.
Social Science Building, 5230

Instructor
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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


January 28
The thorny question of retention

Reading


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


February 11

Identity and metaphors of creolization in the Caribbean and beyond

Reading


February 18

Diaspora

Reading


February 25

**The French Antilles – Zouk and créolité**

*Reading*


*Listening*

Kassav’, “Soley” (1987, zouk)
Jacob Desvarieux, “Banzawa” (1983, zouk)

March 4

**Santería**

*Reading*


*Listening*

CD accompanying *Divine Utterances*.

March 11

**Haiti**

*Reading*


Listening
TBA

March 18

Spring Break

March 25

Trinidad: Nationalism and transnational religion

Reading


Listening
TBA

April 1

Trinidad: Nationalism and diaspora

Reading


Listening

CD accompanying *Governing sound*. 
April 8

The Bahamas: Mobility and identity

Reading


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)."

April 15

Jamaica: Diaspora and technology

Reading


Listening

Sound Dimension, “Real Rock”
Joe Tex, Welton Irie, U-Black, “Friday Evening”
Sizzla, “Keep in Touch”
April 22

Jamaica: Gender and sexuality

Reading


Watching


Listening

Shabba Ranks, “Dem Bow”
———, “Wicked in the Bed”
Lady Saw, “Stab Out Me Meat”

April 29

Reggaeton and Bachata: Transnationalism

Reading


Listening

Little Lenny, “Punnaney Tegereg” (1991)
El General, “Tu Pun Pun” (1991)
Playero, “Raagga Mix to Mix” (1994)
King Daddy Yod, “Delbor” (2006)
Aventura and Don Omar, “Ella y yo” (2005)

May 6
Cuba: The Local Politics of Transnational Musics

Reading

Listening
Obsesión, “La llaman puta” (n.d.)

Check out Los Aldeanos’ MySpace page: http://www.myspace.com/losaldeanos