



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SAN ANTONIO

Honors Program

Eugen L. Nagy, Lecturer (Political Science)

Office: CAB 351 I

Office Hrs.: Wed 12:45-1:45pm & by appt.

Email: use Blackboard messaging

Martha Saywell, Senior Lecturer (Music)

Office: Classroom Hall 314 H

Office Hrs: By appt both in-person & online

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HONR 3300- 002, Advanced Honors Seminar / POLS 4370-001, Spec Studies in Poli Sci

Class: TR 3:30-4:45 pm Classroom Hall 301

MUSIC & POLITICS

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

“Politics” refers to the way in which human societies organize and direct themselves toward common goals. As such, politics is an intrinsic aspect of social life. Music, on the other hand, is one of the fundamental ways of expressing our shared human experience, its pains and its joys. As a human society, we speak through music, just as we organize ourselves, inherently, through politics – both being unique manifestations of the experience of being human.

In this course, team-taught by faculty from both music and political science, the students will investigate the various ways in which these two dimensions of the human experience intertwine, influence, dialogue and clash with each other. In order to analyze the various facets of these interactions, the course will take the students through a series of topical modules, each containing several case studies. Within these modules, the students will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the music and politics of different historical periods and from different regions and cultures (Western and non-Western). Through this process, the students will acquire and learn to employ the basic concepts and tools of two different fields of study – musicology and political science.

In other words, this course intends to provide for the students a deep, personal and immersive cultural experience, while also teaching them the concepts, tools and approaches of two very distinct academic disciplines.



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will learn how to listen to and how to appreciate a wide range of musical styles and genres, from very different cultural spheres and historical epochs: from traditional folk music, to Western classical music; from Chinese opera, to gospels and spirituals; from marches, anthems, and other varieties of “official” music, to the history of pop music, from the 1950s to today etc.

Students will acquire and learn how to employ a substantive set of concepts, theories and perspectives from the field of political science; this will help them to better understand and interpret their own, contemporary political reality.

The students will also acquire the fundamental vocabulary, as well as some of the theoretical apparatus, of musicology – terms and concepts that will allow them to engage with musical works from any other style or tradition.

Through immersion and cultural-historical contextualization, students will become able to engage with, and to learn from, very different cultures, civilizations, and modes of human existence.

Students will get a deeper understanding of the fundamental building blocks of modernity (i.e. of the world they inhabit), both from a political and from a cultural perspective (major ideas and ideologies; major political and cultural shifts and events etc.).

Students will become capable of employing the knowledge and the tools acquired in this class in their own work, in pursuit of their own interests and likes (starting with writing and presenting their own “music & politics” case study).

Students will learn and will practice the skills needed for presenting one’s work in public, and for managing a classroom’s listening and discussion session.

ATTENDANCE, PARTICIPATION, DISCIPLINE

This class will be run seminar-style, with extensive and intensive student participation, and student-faculty interaction. This is why **class attendance is mandatory**, as most of the teaching and learning will happen in the classroom, through our common work. This is also why **student**



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participation is evaluated on an ongoing basis and is graded separately. This means that the only way to make the best out of this experience, and to obtain good results in this course, is by attending and participating intensively in each class.

Whenever we meet, you are expected to be an **active and respectful member of our learning community**. Positive participation is encouraged and will contribute to a better grade. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and might result in: expulsion from class; expulsion from the entire course; reporting to the disciplinary bodies of the university and University Police; an **automatic F grade for the entire class**.

In this class, **electronic devices** (smartphones, laptops etc.) can only be used in order to take notes, or to consult materials specifically indicated by the instructor. Using them for any other purpose is forbidden, and is considered a disciplinary infraction, that will lead to the disciplinary measures listed above.

GRADING & EVALUATIONS

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION (A&P). As indicated above, attendance is mandatory, and students will receive a cumulative grade for attendance for the entire course. If something occurs that would make attending class impossible, make sure to contact the faculty immediately, and ahead of class, if possible. Students will also receive a separate grade for participation. Together, these two aspects will contribute toward the A&P component of the final grade.

REFLECTIONS. As indicated, the course is organized into **several topical modules**, each of them containing about three-four classes. After each module the students will write and submit a **reflection piece** on the materials studied in the given module, using the tools and concepts from musicology and political science acquired in this class.

STUDENT CASE STUDY. By the end of the semester, students will present and prepare a case study on a musical piece, reflecting the relationship between music and politics, based upon the models discussed in this course.

FINAL GRADE. Please find below the main components of the final grade. Each of these components will receive a letter grade. Note that for these intermediate grades we will use the traditional higher education grading scale (with minus and plus): A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+ etc.



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Reflection 1: 8%

Reflection 2: 8%

Reflection 3: 8%

Reflection 4: 8%

Reflection 5: 8%

Reflection 6: 8%

Attendance & Participation: 26%

Student Case Study: 26%

In order to calculate the final grade, use the numeric equivalents of the grades for each component (eg. A=4.0, A-=3.7, B+=3.3 etc.), according to the formula below:

$$\text{Final Grade} = R1*8\% + R2*8\% + R3*8\% + \dots + AP*26\% + SCS*26\%$$

Additional information and explanations will be given in class and on Blackboard.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty (*cheating, plagiarism etc.*) will be addressed promptly and with severity. The use of *AI tools* is forbidden in this class and is considered cheating. More information about what is plagiarism and how to avoid it can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/jv5eafza>.

Consequences of academic dishonesty may include: an F for the given assignment; an F for the entire course; reporting to the disciplinary bodies of the university; expulsion from the course. These measures are at the discretion of the instructors.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Texas A&M University – San Antonio has a range of services dedicated to student success and well-being. These resources are listed and described in detail in the IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES section of the syllabus (*see at the end of this document*). Know how these resources can assist you, and do not be reluctant to use them; remember, your mental and physical health should always be your first concern!

If you are registered with DSS and need specific arrangements either in terms of class work or for test taking, please make sure to inform the instructor ahead of time.



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Overall, make sure to maintain a constant channel of communication with the instructors, and to let them know as early as possible if issues or problems occur that might have a negative impact on your work in this class.

STUDY MATERIALS

The main **study materials** that we will use in this class are:

- class lectures & discussions
- Blackboard materials.
- additional materials.

Class lectures & discussions: Most of the information that you will need to acquire in this class will be delivered through lectures and discussions. This includes, as discussed, the basic vocabulary, concepts and tools of the two disciplines that you will become acquainted with in this course: political science and musicology. It is essential, therefore, that you take *precise and detailed class notes*.

Blackboard materials: Most of the musical pieces that we will listen to and discuss in this class will be made available through Blackboard. In addition, texts, links, maps, and other resources will also be posted on Blackboard. Please note that all the materials posted on Blackboard constitute *required reading and study materials* (unless otherwise indicated).

Additional materials. Additional materials (DVD, streaming media) might be used in this class, as well. As far as possible, these will be provided at no cost. However, there could be occasions when small online purchases might be needed in order to access a given material (e.g. online rental of a streaming media product). Students will be notified of this ahead of time.

CLASS PLAN: OVERVIEW

The course is organized around several topics, or “nodes” - points of intersection between music and politics, grouped into modules. Each node will be investigated with the help of case studies: namely, a carefully curated selection of music pieces from various genres and epochs, of different styles and lengths, which are meant to illustrate and exemplify the given topic. These music pieces will be introduced by the two faculty members, each of them providing the cultural-historical context and the conceptual and theoretical tools specific to their discipline (music &



political science).

The students will use this information in order to be able to engage more deeply with the music, and to discuss and analyze it from a scholarly perspective. At the heart of each case study, however, will be the sheer experience of listening and engaging with the music itself – an experience supported by the faculty with intentionality and great attention, with the goal of cultivating the skill of music appreciation in the students. After each listening session students will take part in a free (yet intellectually informed) conversation about their experience. At the conclusion of each topical section (module) the students will produce a short reflection expressing their personal experience of engaging with the given music pieces and containing their informed discussion thereof (from a music theory and from a political science perspective).

The last module of the semester will be dedicated to presenting and preparing the students' own case studies, which they will develop through the semester. This will take the form of a paper, and of a brief class presentation built around a communal listening session. The students will be able to choose the topic and the musical exemplars that they will focus on; at the same time, each student will have to demonstrate their ability to use both the historical-cultural information acquired during the semester, and the concepts, perspectives and vocabulary of the two academic disciplines, within their case study.

CLASS PLAN: MODULES

As indicated before, the course is organized into several topical modules, each about 3-4 classes in length, with the exception of M0 (one class) and of M7 (student case studies – several classes). These are the main modules of the course:

M0: Introduction

M1: National Anthems [Reflection 1]

M2: Songs of the Oppressed [Reflection 2]

M3: Constituting Community through Common Song [Reflection 3]

M4: Ideologies, or the Political Instrumentalization of Music [Reflection 4]

M5: The Eurovision: Unity in Diversity [Reflection 5]

M6: Tan Dun's *The First Emperor* [Reflection 6]

M7: Student Case Studies



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WEEKLY WORK PLAN

The general schedule of work posted above is for orientation purposes. The actual pacing and rhythm of the class will be shaped by our common work, and each learning community has a different pace of work. Accordingly, the schedule posted above may be updated, modified, adjusted or improved, to better fit the goals of the course and the actual pace of our work; these changes are at the discretion of the instructors.

Before every week, a **Weekly Work Plan** will be posted on Blackboard. This document will contain the precise plan of work for the given week, including the topics that will be discussed that week, materials to be prepared, and reminders for upcoming assignments. Make sure to check and follow this weekly work plan before each week; this should be your main planning tool for this class.

>>> Check the following pages for a summary of important university policies and resources. <<<



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IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us

<https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu.

Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention,



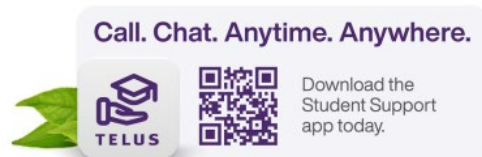
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consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information on SCC services visit tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling SCC at 210-784-1331 (after hours select option '2').

Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer to peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.



Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/emergency-management/>.

Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal



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financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/>.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE referral (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html>) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots’ Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.



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Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.\

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units. Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations,



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and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.



Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, [Student Code of Conduct](#), on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.



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4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/documents/Student-Handbook-2022-23.pdf>) or visit the resources available in the OSRR website (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-integrity.html>).

Use of AI tools. In HONR 3300-002 / POLS 4370-001 it is expected that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.



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Important Dates:

August 26	First day of class
September 2	Labor Day Holiday
November 11	Last day to drop with an automatic “W”
November 19	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University
November 27	Study Day – No classes
November 28-30	Thanksgiving Holiday – No classes
December 5	Last day of classes
December 6	Study Day – No classes
December 7-13	Final exams

The complete academic calendar is available online:

<https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/academic-calendar/index.html>.
