

Course Code/Title: Introduction to the Music Cultures of Asia

Instructor	Carolyn Ramzy
Term	Fall 2025
Course Delivery	In-Person
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introductory survey to the wide-ranging musical and cultural practices in the largest and most populated continent: Asia. Drawing on literature from the fields of anthropology and ethnomusicology, we explore rich traditions along the historic trading route of the Silk Road beginning in modern-day Turkey and threads through to Southeast Asia. How did this route's early cultural and religious exchanges of spices, silks, music, and even musicians, predicate the contemporary music trends that still bind the region? We also ask questions about the (soft) power of popular music cultures that shape global exchanges, colonial encounter, racial politics, and neoliberal capitalism in Asia broadly and how all of that is then exported into our own ears. Though various case studies, we examine how classical and traditional music cultures interact to create hybrid genres such as Indian *bhangra*, K-pop and J-pop not only reflect our increasingly interlinked world, but how they also are increasingly challenging the hegemony of Western popular culture on a global scale.

EVALUATION

In-Class Participation:

- Regular Attendance and in-class participation - 10%
- In-class check in 1 - October 6 - 5%
- In-class check in 2 - Nov 17 - 5%

Listening Quizzes:

- Sept 29: 20%
- Oct 27: 20%
- Nov 17: 20%

Final Exam - Exam Period:

- 20%; Officially scheduled by the registrar during Final exam week; All deferral request must formally go through the registrar's office: <https://sarms.carleton.ca/registrar/deferral>

TEXT