

## **Sample Academic Program for a Music Major with a Focus on Ethnomusicology (Asian Studies)**

Ethnomusicology encompasses the study of music as practice and as culture. Scholars in the field come from a number of disciplines in addition to music—anthropology, sociology, folklore, psychology, linguistics and others—and thus we conceive of the field as deeply interdisciplinary, that is, open to numerous approaches to the study of music. The sort of liberal arts degree our music majors are required to have, asking for both breadth and depth, offers excellent preparation for the field.

Study of music is at the core of the field. A solid grounding in Western music theory and history permits one to move in a number of directions including into studies of popular music worldwide and music in colonized areas of the world. (Not all graduate programs in ethno require this, but most do.) However, interest in ethnomusicology means interest in delving into a variety of musical practices and traditions, and serious regard for ethnographic research in which people are primary sources. Good musical skills in some tradition are requisite.

If you have shaped an undergraduate program that reflects successful coursework in music as practice and as culture, an interest in interdisciplinarity, and good critical and writing skills, then you will be an attractive applicant for a graduate program.

### **YEAR 1**

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**Required courses for the major:** 49A, 49B, 49C, 50, 60, and one course from the series Music 74-77, Music 405A and B

**Required university-wide:** Reading and Composition (2 courses) and one course in American History and Institutions (if not taken elsewhere or exempted by exam).

*Note that Reading and Composition courses are offered by numerous departments. To complement your study of Asian musics, try for instance*

Asian American Studies R2A-R2B

South and Southeast Asian Studies R5A-R5B

a course in Comparative Literature with Asian content.

**Courses to fulfill the L&S seven-course breadth requirement:** choose from the list below

If there is any space in the schedule, it would also be desirable to participate in one performing ensemble (from the series Music 140-45, 148, 149) (**required** eventually) and/or take private lessons on your instrument (Music 41/150) and/or take one further course from the Music 74-77 series (**required** eventually).

We strongly recommend that students seek out a Freshman Seminar or a Sophomore Seminar in any topic/department. These are one-unit courses that provide the opportunity to work closely with a faculty member and a small group of students on a focused topic for one hour a week.

## **YEAR 2**

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**Required courses for the major:** 51, 61, a further two courses from the series Music 74-77, a large performing ensemble (Music 140-45, 148, 149) for both fall and spring semesters, Music 405C and D

*The requirement to participate in a large ensemble for two consecutive semesters can be fulfilled at any time in the program. This is merely a suggestion that the second year might be a convenient time to do it, whether to leave room to explore other courses and ensembles later or because students often wish to continue for several years as members of the same performing ensemble. We recommend auditioning for ensembles immediately upon entering the music major.*

**Breadth courses:** choose from the list below

**if room in the schedule:**

additional courses in some area of non-European music (from the series Music 130-139)

an additional upper-level seminar in European music history (Music 170-179, 189)

Music 108 (Music Perception and Cognition), Music 23 (Music Culture and the Digital Multimedia Environment)

## **YEAR 3**

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**Required courses for the major:** complete any outstanding requirement for the major, and if you are interested in the possibility of grad school in ethnomusicology, begin conversations with professors about your courses here. Also, take some steps that will smooth the way towards doing a thesis, special project, or lecture-demonstration during the senior year.

**Recommended music electives:**

additional courses in some area of non-European music (from the series Music 130-139, 171)

Central Javanese Gamelan (Music 140)

African Music Ensemble (Music 148)

Gospel Choir (C143)

Music 108 (Music Perception and Cognition)

an additional upper-level seminar in European music history (Music 170-179, 189)

**from other departments, but relevant to historical studies in music:**

--see the list of breadth courses above. However, focus now on upper division courses. Consider pursuing a sequence of more than one course in a single department, perhaps following a lower-division course already taken with an upper division course with the same professor.

--two semesters of the foreign language of the musical tradition that you are most interested in. Consider this the first of at least two years of study of the language, if you are seriously considering graduate study in ethnomusicology

## **YEAR 4**

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**Recommended music electives:** anything from the courses listed under **year 3**, plus: Music H195 or 199 (independent study to develop a senior or honors thesis; strongly recommended to take this during the fall semester) Studies in Musical Analysis (Mus 156)

**from other departments:** By this time your focus will probably be clearer and you will be attuned to the many possibilities out there on this fabulous campus. Work with your adviser to fashion a good program for yourself.

## **SUGGESTED BREADTH COURSES**

Note: Asian studies gives you very wide latitude, as “Asia” includes the following;  
Southwest Asia (more commonly called the Middle/Near East) South Asia (i.e., India and its neighbors)  
Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Thailand, etc)  
East Asia (China, Korea, Japan).

Some lower and upper division courses are listed here, but many more are available on campus.

### **American Cultures**

Search in a given term for AC courses that have Asian-American content.

### **Philosophy and Values**

#### **Southwest Asia**

Near Eastern studies 34: Hebrew Bible in Translation  
C103: Religion of Ancient Egypt  
other courses in the Near Eastern Department

#### **East Asia**

Buddhism 39A  
EALC 183: Classics of Chinese Philosophy

#### **South Asia**

SSEAS 155: Philosophies of India  
SSEAS 129: Indian Mystical Traditions and Practices  
other courses in South and Southeast Asian Studies Dept

### **Social and Behavioral Sciences**

Here is where you can get a good underpinning in anthropology that is vital for ethnomusicology:

Anthro 3: Introduction to Social/Cultural Anthropology  
Anthro 145: Urban Anthropology  
Anthro 156B: Culture and Power,  
Anthro/Folklore 160: Forms of Folklore

#### **East Asia**

Anthro 170: China  
Anthro 171: Japan

### Southwest Asia

Anthro 181: Themes in the Anthropology of the Middle East and Islam

### South Asia

Anthro 184: South Asia

Anthro 187: Peoples and Cultures of the Himalayas.

### Southeast Asia

Anthro 186: Southeast Asia: Cultures, States, and Capitalisms in the Asian Pacific Rim

## **International Studies**

Surveys of several areas are available

Asian Studies 10B: Introduction to Modern Asian Cultures

Geography 108: Political Geography

There are also a number of courses on particular areas—

Geography 10: Introduction to Central Asia

Near Eastern Studies 10: Introduction to the Near East

Political Science and Sociology offer possible courses as well.

## **Historical Studies**

### Southwest Asia

Art History 16: Introduction to Islamic Art

History 9D: Middle East

### South and Southeast Asia

History 9C: India

Art History 30: Art of India and Southeast Asia

### East Asia

Art History 31: Art of China, Japan and Korea

Art History 35: Art and Architecture in Japan

History 9A: China

History 9B: Japan

plus a roster of upper-division history courses on Asian cultures

One course each also required in the areas of Biological Science and Physical Science.