Freshman 102 Seminar

Course:       ACH 102.19/ GLS 102.11


Course Instructor: Aruna Sharma

Meeting Time:   Fridays   2:30pm-3:50pm

Location:       Tabler Center 107

Instructor Contact Information: Phone 631-632-7690, email: aruna.sharma@stonybrook.edu

Course Description:

Basic Elements of Indian Classical Music, such as the Raga music, Tala (Time Measure), different schools or Gharanas, classical forms such as Dhrupad, Khayal and Thumri are studied through the analysis of historical and contemporary masterpieces. The role of specific stringed and percussion instruments such as Tanpura and Tabla is studied. The intimate relationship exists between music, religion and ethnicity, especially in liturgical and popular music.

A key ingredient of the phenomenal impact of Hindi Cinema (Bollywood) has been its rich and vibrant music. This course explores the classical foundation of popular Hindi film songs of the 20th century, 1950 to 1970. Using videos and audio samples of the great classics and masterpieces students will learn to identify and appreciate basic elements of Indian Classical Music.

Course Objectives:

To create an understanding and appreciation of Indian Classical Music by analyzing the music employed in Bollywood Cinema, arguably one of the world’s most important popular culture phenomena. Students learn to understand the basic elements of Indian Music, including the notes and special characteristics of the great and popular Ragas. Besides the key concepts, students will learn the scientific and psychological facts which contribute to keeping any system of music alive. Participation, interaction and presentations will help to enhance the self-confidence and communication skill. Overall, students emerge as intelligent and informed listeners whose knowledge of music in general and enjoyment will extend to further exploration of the grandeur of classical music.

Requirements:

Students are required to attend every class. Absence from more than one will result in lowering of one letter grade from final grade in course. Only a medical related absence with valid documentation from a physician will be excused.
READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

REQUIRED TEXT: Sandeep Bagchee, NAD Understanding Raga Music, Published by eishwar, Mumbai. (Available at university book store).

Videos/DVDs, for limited time and film clips of the vocal and musical portions will be shown in class.

Exams and participation:

There will be two quizzes on theory and pitch perception and analysis of audio visual features. Midterm and Final will be based on theory and presentation.

Grading:

All First-Year seminars are graded on an A-C/U basis.

A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-69

In-class quizzes 20%
Midterm 30%
Final Exam 30%
Participation 10%
Attendance 10%

Disability Support Services

If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services (631) 632-6748. They will determine with you that accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation are confidential. Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and Disability Support Services. For procedures and information, go to the following website: http://www.ehs.sunysb.edu. Search ‘Fire Safety and Evacuation and Disabilities’
Meeting Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction to musical notes and melody; its importance in Indian Music and music in Bollywood Cinema.
(Friday Jan. 31)

Readings:
Chapter 1, pp. 16 to 21

Week 2: Basic Scales, Importance of Drone and important information about different instruments used in cinema.
(Friday Feb. 7)

Readings:
Chapter 1, pp. 22-31

Week 3: Raga structure, its classification and use in cinema.
(Friday Feb. 14) 1st Quiz

Readings:
Chapter 1, pp. 38-51

Week 4: Laya (tempo) Tala (time measure) and their intricacies.
(Friday Feb. 21)

Readings:
Chapter 1, pp. 56-63

Week 5: Description of different Tals and their application, in cinema.
(Friday Feb. 28) 2nd Quiz

Readings:
Work sheets will be provided.

Week 6: Listening and understand the concept of Tals.
(Friday March 7)
Listening Assignments:

Talas will be played on the instrument (Electronic Tabla, (Drum))

Week 7: Explanation of different embellishments used in classical music.
(Friday March 14)

Readings:

Chapter 2, pp. 51-53

Week 8: Spring Recess

Week 9: Classical form “Khayal” and its influence on some of popular songs of Bollywood.
(Friday March 28) Midterm

Readings:

Chapter 11, pp. 282-

Week 10: Explanation of semi classical form Thumri and its application in cinema will be discussed.
(Friday March 28) Presentation

Readings:

Chapter 11, pp. 128-133

Week 11: Thumri will be continued.
(Friday April 4)

Readings:

Chapter 11, cont.

Week 12: Structure of specific popular ragas and their application in Bollywood.
(Friday April 11)

Readings:

Chapter 11, pp.288-308

Week 13: Presentation.

Week 14: Final Exam.
**ACH Program Attendance Requirement:** ACH students are required to attend two ACH events during the Spring semester. Students should visit the ACH website (http://www.stonybrook.edu/ucolleges/ach/) for updated information about the events.

**University Scholar students are strongly encouraged to attend ACH programs, but are not required. Scholars have their own event requirement, which includes at least one Scholars (for-credit) event and one ACH (for-credit) event per semester, or two Scholars (for-credit) events.**

**Spring Commons Day** - All students in a Freshman 102 Seminar are required to attend a Spring Commons Day Event on Wednesday, March 26, 2014. For more information about this day visit: http://ucolleges.stonybrook.edu/spring-commons-day

**GLS**

**GLS Program Attendance Requirement:** As a member of the College of Global Studies (GLS) and as part of your GLS 102 class, you must attend at least 2 programs from the list provided during the spring semester. At least 1 program should come from the "academic" category and 1 from the "social" category. Attendance will be recorded at each event and shared with faculty. For more information, and a list of programs, please visit: http://www.stonybrook.edu/ucolleges/gls/activities.shtml

**University Scholar students are strongly encouraged to attend GLS programs, but are not required. Scholars have their own event requirement, which includes at least one Scholars (for-credit) event and one GLS (for-credit) event per semester, or two Scholars (for-credit) events.**

**Spring Commons Day** - All students in a Freshman 102 Seminar are required to attend a Spring Commons Day Event on Wednesday, March 26, 2014. For more information about this day visit: http://ucolleges.stonybrook.edu/spring-commons-day