

IDH 3931 – (Un)Common Arts
Authenticity, Politics, & the Steep Canyon Rangers

Section 06HC
MUB 142
Periods 10-11 (5:10-7:05 p.m.) R
Spring 2018

Dr. Chuck Levy & Dr. Chuck Pickeral
MUB 130D
(352) 273-3165
cpickeral@ufl.edu

Course Description

This course is part of the UF Honors Program's (Un)Common Arts project, which offers a series of one-credit, discussion-oriented seminar courses centered on a performance or exhibit. This one is built around a performance by the Steep Canyon Rangers on February 23, 2018.

During the course, students will be introduced to Bluegrass, Old Time, and related musical styles through discussion, recordings, and performances by guest artists. Topics will include the origins of this music, including African roots, performance practices, tuning, and social contexts, although the content will be driven, to some extent, by student questions and interests.

In addition, students will explore the concept of authenticity in music and the arts through exposure to the musical and social conventions of the Bluegrass & Old Time genres.

Objectives

By the conclusion of this course, students will be able to identify and discuss some of the significant features and figures of Bluegrass & Old Time music. Students will be able to discuss the concept of authenticity as it relates to these musical styles and to contemporary musical cultures.

Course Requirements

Since this course is a discussion-oriented seminar, there will not be any test or exams. Instead, students will be evaluated on their participation during class meetings, online journal entries, and responses to the journals of others. Online entries and responses will be posted on the course Canvas site in E-Learning, as will select readings, video and audio excerpts relevant to the discussions.

In addition, each student will serve as the discussion leader/host for at least one class meeting (depending on the number of students enrolled). When serving as the leader, a student should be prepared to ask pertinent questions of guests and to guide the discussion.

Grading

The grades for this course will be based on a 100-point system, in the following manner:

70 points = participation in class and online journals. Student are expected to post an entry in their online journal each week the class meets. This may contain both objective analysis of the material and subjective responses to it. You also have the opportunity to respond to the journal entries of your classmates.

30 points = preparation and performance as the course discussion leader.

All grades will be determined based on the following scale (corresponding grade points are listed in parentheses, consistent with the university grading regulations outlined at

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>):

92-100 points = A (4.00)	80-81 points = B- (2.67)	68-69 points = D+ (1.33)
90-91 points = A- (3.67)	78-79 points = C+ (2.33)	62-67 points = D (1.00)
88-89 points = B+ (3.33)	72-77 points = C (2.00)	60-61 points = D- (0.67)
82-87 points = B (3.00)	70-71 points = C- (1.67)	0-59 points = E (0)

PLEASE NOTE: If you perceive a grading error, you must address the issue within 72 hours of the grade posting, otherwise the grade is final and will not be discussed further. Specific grade questions and concerns will only be discussed with the student. Due to the 1974 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, I cannot and will not discuss your progress or grades with your parents. For more information on FERPA, please visit <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/ferpa.html>. Any correspondence received from your parents/guardians will be responded to with a link to the FERPA information site and nothing more.

Important Dates

January 8 – Classes Begin

January 12 – Drop/Add Ends at 11:59 PM

March 5-10 – Spring Break

March 23 – Steep Canyon Rangers Concert, 7:30 PM, PCPA

March 24 – Final class meeting

Conduct

Students are expected to show respect for one another and for the instructor in all communication. This doesn't mean that we can't disagree or debate, only that we handle such disagreements with courtesy and that we allow each party to present their position without interruption.

One piece of respectful communication is that mobile devices must be turned off during classes to prevent interruption and distraction. Students should not use computers, tablets, etc. during class unless instructed to do so.

Attendance

Consistent and punctual attendance in every class is expected. Students are responsible for all assigned work, announcements made in class, and any material covered in class regardless of attendance or punctuality. Chronic absence and/or tardiness will be noted and can adversely affect the student's discussion/participation grade.

Most assignments will be submitted online through the course website. Only in exceptional circumstances will it be possible to submit assignments after the closing deadline. In the event that late assignments are accepted/permitted, there will be a substantial grade penalty assessed. Please note that technical difficulties do arise, and will generally not be considered an excuse to miss a deadline (especially without documentation from the UF Computing Helpdesk) – it is in your best interest to complete your assignments early so that you have time to work through any unforeseeable problems. You are advised to read through the technical information posted on the LSS website (<http://lss.at.ufl.edu>) to minimize any potential technical issues.

For conflicts that may arise due to University-sponsored events or religious holidays, you are advised to plan your work in advance. The instructor recognizes and will comply with the University's attendance policy (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>); however, since no assignment requires that you log on the day of the deadline, you are responsible for planning ahead and taking care of work before a trip or holiday (including university holidays such as Homecoming). If a conflict seems unavoidable, you must contact the instructor at least one week prior to the date in question.

The instructor reserves the right to amend any portion of the course structure, including items listed on the *Due Dates*.

Academic Honesty

All violations of academic honesty will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for disciplinary action without exception. PLAGIARISM OR CHEATING **WILL** RESULT IN A FAILING GRADE FOR THE PLAGIARIZED ASSIGNMENT, AND POSSIBLY THE COURSE. If you are uncertain about these guidelines, please see me. **Ignorance to the law is no excuse.**

By registering for classes, you have agreed to abide by the UF Honor Code, which reads, in part: "On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: *On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.*" (The full text of the Student Honor Code is available through the Dean of Students Office website, <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honorcode.php>.)

Accommodations

Students requesting classroom accommodations must first register with the Disability Resource Center (0001 Reid Hall; 352.392.8565; www.dso.ufl.edu/drc) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter that must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. Accommodations are not provided retroactively.

Online Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.