

Syllabus

Course Syllabus and Outline for “An Adventure in World Music; A survey of human civilization through music”

Grades 9 – 12

Semester Elective

Prerequisites: None

Course Philosophy/Description

Course essential question: How does music tell the story of civilization?

Every civilization answers five questions differently.

- Who are we?
- What do we celebrate?
- What do we fear?
- What do we believe?
- What do we hope for?

Music becomes the evidence, and the reward.

Instead of a lab log notebook, each students records their journey on a Passport.

Library and Consulate in One

Every day:

- Students enter.
- Lights dim.
- One recording.
- No introduction.
- No title.
- No explanation.
- Notebook
- Three prompts.
 - **What do you notice?**

- Where do you think this comes from?
- What clues support your thinking?
- Where in the world are we?
- After discussion
- Reveal the answer.
- The students become musical detectives.

Theme

Instead of

1600...

1700...

1800...

We will use:

Musical Journeys

Each unit contains the **"Meanwhile..."** section.

For example.

- While Bach was writing...
 - What was happening in
 - China?
 - Africa?
 - Mexico?
 - Japan?
- Students realize
 - History isn't Europe.
 - History is everyone.

Components

- Components
 - Course syllabus (2-3 pages)
 - Standards crosswalk
 - 77-day pacing guide
 - Daily lesson plans (one page each)

- Passport templates
- Evidence manual
- Slide decks
- Teacher demonstration notes
- Standard handouts

“The Big Questions.”

Instead of “Course Objectives”, students see the questions that will guide the semester:

For example

- Why do virtually every human culture have specific musical styles, different fingerprints
- Does music inform the culture, or does culture inform the music?
- How can computers capture the unique nuances of music in each culture

These questions become the thread that ties the semester together

Daily Rhythm

Time Activity

5 min Bell ringer/passport

10 min Demonstration

15 min Investigation

15 min Computer lab

5 min Reflection

Course built around investigation rather than chronology