Brazilian Samba School
Brazilian Music – History and Analysis
Spring 2020
MUS 150, CRN 73569, 2 units

Meeting times: 2:00-4:00pm Thursdays on Zoom call

Instructor: Brian Rice
Contact: bwrice@ucdavis.edu

Course description: This class will serve as an introduction to the music of Brazil. Due to the recent responses to the novel corona virus outbreak this class will not be an ensemble, but rather a study of the many styles of music from Brazil and their history, and analysis of the music. We will learn to identify different styles of music, and what makes each one unique and develop a basic knowledge of musical concepts, terminology and listening skills so you may describe and analyze different styles of music.

The class will take place over Zoom calls from 2:10-4pm on Thursdays, and will be a discussion of listening and short readings assigned from the week before. Short writings on the listening will be assigned each week as well. I hope to have each one of you learn to sing a song in Portuguese, or play a tantan pattern, or a tamborim part to encourage at least some music making. With some creative work around to this format, I would like to also try to create some recorded video version of samba that we all contribute to.

Course Requirements: Students are expected to attend every class’ Zoom call for the quarter, and participate in the class discussions. You are expected to complete all readings, listening and writing assignments by their due date. All course audio, video, readings and assignments will be available on Canvas or on Spotify playlist.

You must have access to the internet with a device that can access a zoom video/audio call and canvas. If this is an issue please let me know.

Evaluation: This course is pass/no pass. Evaluation is based upon participation and attendance on the Zoom calls, and completing the listening and writing assignments or other exercises by their due date.

Attendance: Any excused absences must be cleared with the instructor by email prior to each scheduled class. Excused absences include obligations to sports teams or school related travel, (for which a note from the professor or coach is required for excusal), and illness. In the case of illness, please do your best to obtain a doctor’s note in order to clear the absence. Any absence may result in the assignment of additional coursework as deemed appropriate by the instructor. More than one unexcused absence will result in a no pass.