

Playlist Curation Assignment

MCY 313: Music of Latin America (Fall 2019)

Instructor: Clifford Sutton

Students will curate a Spotify playlist of 5 songs highlighting one or more of the central themes associated with the Latin American musical cultures studied throughout the semester. As part of this project, you will present your curated playlist by maintaining a personal blog through Blackboard. Blog entries will include an embedded Spotify playlist, a final summary reflecting on the curation process, and 5 [Elinks](#) featuring one summarized article and one audio/visual link. All projects should adhere to a single unifying theme throughout the process.

The project is worth 35% of the final semester grade. Song selections and their corresponding [Elinks](#) are worth 5% each of the cumulative project grading total; 5% for a complete Spotify playlist; and the remaining 5% corresponds to the final project summary. Additionally, final grading consideration is given to overall project organization and aesthetics.

Please note that project deadlines are firm, and grades for each submission will be lowered by one letter for each day late (e.g., A => B+). Students should expect to discuss their playlist with the instructor and class at each stage of the curation process.

As you begin the curation process, here are some general guidelines to consider:

- What type of music do you enjoy? What Latin American parallels exist?
- Consider the components of musical culture and socio-cultural themes discussed in class; these include:
 - place and displacement; hybridity, globalization, and transnationalism
 - function (sacred or secular; holidays, specific annual events; entertainment)
 - race, class, gender
- Who is making the music:
 - the artists, composers, or performers (improvised performance)
 - include references to nationalities, musical genres or styles, historical periods
- Is the selection a specific musical genre or style?
 - consider dissemination: local, regional, national, or global; mass media impact

Refer to PowerPoint slides and notes from Weeks 1-3 and discussions surrounding the various stylistic elements and themes associated with Latin American music for examples of organizing content. Additionally, I have provided an example on Blackboard to serve as a working guide as you develop your own project.

On the pages that follow, you will find more detailed instructions for creating, labeling, and submitting the various components required for the project.

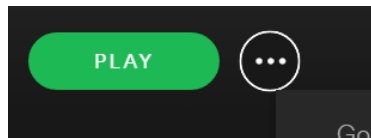
For the Spotify playlist:

Remember, an embedded playlist contributes to 5% of the total playlist project grade. We will cover setting up and embedding playlist in class on September 5th. A complete playlist will include the following:

- Label your playlist as follows: Last name – Title of Theme
- 5 musical selections, organized to meaningfully illustrate your theme

When you are ready to submit the Spotify playlist for your blog, follow these instructions using a computer or laptop:

- From the Spotify app, find and copy the **embed code** using the link featuring 3 horizontal dots located beside the play link (possibly different if using Spotify in web browser):



- From the drop-down menu, select “Share,” followed by “Copy Embed Code”
- On Blackboard, under the “Playlist Curation Blogs” tab, select “Create Blog Entry” using the following title: Project Playlist.
- In the “message” text box, paste the embed code and select “Submit.” I will edit the post so that the playlist appears in the entry window.

Once a playlist is embedded on your blog, there is no need to provide additional embed codes as you develop your project; any changes made to the playlist from Spotify will automatically update your embedded playlist on Blackboard.

For Elink entries, you can follow the same procedures to provide embed codes. Any revisions should be made directly in Elink, not on the Blackboard blog once an entry is posted. Never delete previous entries as it may negatively impact the final project grade.

Using Elink (<https://elink.io/>):

First, students will need to register for an [elink](https://elink.io/) account using a Facebook login or an email address. After logging in, you will see the “Dashboard,” where you can find [elink](https://elink.io/) drafts and published items.

To create an elink:

- Select “Create Post” from the Dashboard; I recommend to “Start from Scratch”
- Add your links; copy and paste web links related to your song selections
 - Each Elink must include 1 article and 1 video link
 - For each link, you must edit the summary of the article or source selected. Article summaries that include text provided by the source should include quotation marks to avoid plagiarism. Sources must provide meaningful information, not simply numbers

related to YouTube or Spotify popularity unless those numbers are examined in a broader context related to course themes.

- Video links (YouTube, Vimeo) must feature artist's videos, concert, or other live performances.
- Edit the header; this is the title for your elink. You must also provide a brief description of the post's theme. Please limit descriptions to 1 paragraph (3-4 sentences).
- Select a template; for this project I recommend "Legian"; you may choose any available.
- Once you are satisfied with your completed Elink, press the "Publish" button
 - To organize your Elinks, I recommend using the song title or the name of the artist being profiled.
 - To share the elink, copy the **embed code** provided and paste to your Blackboard blog. Follow the directions provided for submitting Spotify embed codes.

If you have any questions or require assistance during the process, please contact me at least one week before an entry deadline. Failure to correctly posts Elinks by their due dates for any reason will result in a lowering of the grade for that post.

Keep in mind that free users are limited to one post per day. Pay close attention to project due dates.

For the Blog:

- On Blackboard, select the "Playlist Curation Blogs" link from the menu on the left
- Click on "Playlist Projects"
- Click on "Create Blog Entry"

To create posts, title entries using the song title and artist, followed by submitting your first elink embed code in the "Entry Message" space. Once Elinks or Spotify playlists are embedded, any editing to the playlists or posts must be done through those platforms; the Blackboard blog will automatically update with your revisions. Final reflection posts should clearly state your project theme. Please do not title posts by project selection number ("song 1"), and there is no need to provide your name in an entry title.

Grading Criteria

This project makes up 35% of the overall course grade. All students should have at minimum 7 entries with all required labels and information described in the above requirements:

1. An embedded Spotify playlist (5%)
2. 5 Elinks that include at least 1 meaningful article and 1 video link (25%; 5% each)
3. Final reflective summary (5%)

Your curated playlist entries should include the following:

- A specific and clearly identifiable theme; revisions to the theme when required based on instructor comments. Direct responses to instructor comments are often valuable in this process. All revisions based on instructor comments and suggestions are due by the following project due date.

- A meaningful arrangement of the 5 tracks; the significance of the order must be discussed as part of your reflective summary of the curation process
- Research supporting your theme; sources included in the Elinks are the research with your source summaries providing your understanding and connection to the themes.
 - please note I will not accept Wikipedia, Songfacts, lyric pages, or similar websites as sources, although these may serve as a starting point or provide useful analysis. If you have a question regarding a source, please speak to me prior to submitting through Elink
 - never delete Elinks or sources when revisions are requested; add to or edit original posts
- Final summaries should clearly state a unifying theme for your project, background on how you decided on and developed the topic, and provide a clear understanding of how the tracks are meaningfully arranged
 - Meaningful arrangements of tracks include chronological timelines, stylistic tendencies or musical characteristics, or thematic progression
- Playlists should not include more than 1 song featured in class lectures. Additionally, it is not appropriate to emphasize only one artist for this project; once an artist has been featured, they may not appear on the playlist again even as a guest artist. Students including multiple songs by or featuring a single artist will be asked to change one or more of the selections. Entries that do not adhere to this requirement will not be considered and result in a failing grade.
- Although I would like for these to remain informal and interesting for the reader, please write your summaries in a succinct and clear manner (refer to instructor example on Blackboard).
PROOFREAD!

Remember, you are selecting songs to illustrate a theme that challenges you to consider the historical, social, and cultural impact of the music of Latin America. This assignment is not simply an opportunity to create a list of personal favorites or feature a sampling of internationally recognized popular performers (although including these artists is more than appropriate if their inclusion supports a theme).

All assignments are due by 5:00PM on the dates provided below; these dates are also listed on the course syllabus. Students who miss these deadlines will have their grade lowered by one letter for each day the assignment is late (e.g., A => B+); NO EXCEPTIONS.

Timeline:

- September 5: In-class discussion of playlist curation; Spotify playlist embed codes are due
- September 13: Song 1
- October 11: Song 2 and revisions to 1st blog entry (if required)
- October 25: Song 3 and revisions to 2nd blog entry (if required)
- November 8: Song 4 and revisions to 3rd blog entry (if required)
- November 22: Song 5, revisions to 4th entry (if required), and the reflective summary
 - The reflective summary is a separate post, not an Elink (see instructor example)
- December 8: Final projects with all requested revisions
 - Changes made after this date will not be considered in the grading process