

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

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Humanities Discipline: Music Appreciation (HUMA 118)

Date: May 13, 2016

World Religion: Islam

Teaching Module Title: Islamic Music

Note: This module is intended as one lesson in a multi-lesson, auto-instructional unit on Religion & Music. The unit is one of several Term Assignment options; others include Concert Report, Term Paper, and Global Perspectives.

Teaching Module Goals:

Through answers to questions, the student will demonstrate an understanding of ...

1. The chant of Islamic Qur'an recitation.
2. The music of a Sufi whirling dervish's ritual.
3. The music of the Muslim world and its influence on African-American folk music traditions in North America.

Assigned Readings and Websites:

HUMA 118 Music Appreciation required textbooks:

Joseph Kerman and Gary Tomlinson, *Listen*, 8e
p57-58 (Global Perspectives: "Sacred Chant")

Qur'anic recitation, "Ya sin" [Note: This link must be updated for each course.]

Other books / websites:

CNN: 'Whirling Dervishes:' Music, rhythm and belief united

CNN: Mystical dance of Whirling Dervishes

Religious Studies News, "From the Dutar to the Electric Guitar: Exposing Students to the Music of the Muslim World"

Reading Quiz Questions:

To answer questions 1-5 below, read Kerman, *Listen*, 8e, p57-58 – Global Perspectives: "Sacred Chant." When you encounter the listening symbol, stop and listen to the title below:

- Qur'anic recitation, "Ya sin" [Note: This link must be updated for each course.] (You must sign in with your LaunchPad access code, then scroll down to Global Perspectives: "Sacred Chant.")
1. The musics of the world show several parallels. Two of them are:
 - A. mode and harmony.
 - B. function and technique. [CORRECT]
 - C. notation and polyphony.
 - D. tone color and texture.
 2. Qur'anic recitation is thought of as _____ the sacred text.
 - A. reading [CORRECT]
 - B. dancing
 - C. singing
 - D. acting

3. Like Gregorian chant, Qur'anic recitation is:
- A. monophonic and nonmetric. [CORRECT]
 - B. homophonic and metric.
 - C. monophonic and metric.
 - D. polyphonic and nonmetric.
4. In Islamic chant, the special singer who calls the faithful to worship is called:
- A. lead tenor.
 - B. chanter.
 - C. soloist.
 - D. muezzin. [CORRECT]

5. Essay: How does Qur'anic recitation compare to Gregorian chant?

To answer question 6 below, read this article and view this video:

- [CNN: 'Whirling Dervishes:' Music, rhythm and belief united](#)
- [CNN: Mystical dance of Whirling Dervishes](#)

6. Essay: What place does music play in this ritual? How does this music differ from music of the Western tradition in terms of rhythm, melody, and harmony?

To answer question 7 below, read this article by Vernon Schubel on Islam and music.

- [Religious Studies News, "From the Dutar to the Electric Guitar: Exposing Students to the Music of the Muslim World"](#)

7. Essay: Discuss the similarities of the music of the African-American traditions (i.e. blues and rock and roll) with Islamic music, particularly the folk traditions? For example, in both there is an emphasis on improvisation; both rely heavily on lyrics that express separation, loss, and longing; both use a stringed "-tar" instrument (guitar / dutar), etc.