

EXPLORING THE WORLD OF MUSIC ONLINE

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This project began last summer when I took the D2L instruction courses at MSU. Using D2L requires a bit of practice and I chose to use it first as a communication and grading tool in my Fundamentals of Music class for the year 2006-2007. I also completed an education course that was designed on D2L and exclusively taught online. These two experiences prepared me to take the next step and create my own online course using D2L.

Currently, the music department at MSU does not have any offerings for online instruction, nor does the department offer a course on world music. Dr. John Lindberg, chair of the music department, supported the need for a course on world music and the development of online music courses. With his support and approval, I began to explore the possibilities.

My first task was to analyze a variety of world music textbooks for content, organization and multimedia compatibility. After careful research, I chose to use the textbook, *Exploring the World of Music*, published by Kendall/Hunt. I contacted a representative of the company and began a dialogue with him regarding the use of this text in an online setting. He put me in contact with a representative of Great River Technologies which is a media supporting company Kendall/Hunt works with. Through these two resources it is possible to design a custom-built course. The textbook can be offered as a print copy or as an e-book and can be designed to meet my course objectives. This textbook also offers twelve 30 minute videos that correspond with each chapter of the book. They are available as VHS recordings or can be purchased in a subscription format for on-line instruction. I have viewed all twelve videos and find them to be outstanding resources. A combination audio CD also augments the video program and the book.

Next, I made contact with Extended Learning at MSU. They were very excited to learn of the possibility of music offerings on-line. After making these contacts, I have put together a preliminary syllabus and designed learning outcomes based on the General Education requirements for the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum in categories 6, Humanities and the Arts; category 7, Human Diversity; and category 8, Global Perspective. I plan to submit a curriculum proposal for the College of Arts and Humanities in the next few weeks.