

## Course title: Latin American music (a journey through history, culture, and dance)

Author of the syllabus:	Sandra Real
Number of lessons:	4 days (5x70), lessons in the classroom and at the gym.
Time and place:	June elective week. PERG.
Compulsory/elective	Elective
Max. number of participants:	18
Target audience:	All levels of gymnasium
Prerequisites:	A sufficient level of English to participate in discussions, knowledge of Spanish in A1/A2 level is an advantage.
Course description and aims:	<p>Latin America is known for its active and diversified music scene, as well as its rich cultural legacy. From the irresistible rhythms of salsa, cumbia and bachata to worldwide collaborations and viral social media fads like reggaeton, tribal and corridos tumbados, Latin American music represents its people's lifestyles and interests.</p> <p>The aims of this elective course are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To understand the connections between the music, history, social circumstances and the reach of media in Latin America and its impact in the 21<sup>st</sup> century world.</li> <li>• Learn the foundations to dance the most representative genres of Latin American music, and practice and learn Spanish in a relaxed atmosphere.</li> </ul>
Grading:	The evaluation will be divided into the following parts: attendance (at least 80% of the studied module), active involvement in class through discussions and class assignments, movie and



	music reviews, game and dance dynamics, and a creative project working in teams to present at the end of the course to show the concepts learned. The grading system will be pass/fail based.
Learning objectives:	<p><u>Behaviour:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. actively participate in group discussions, game and dance dynamics and written work in class.</li> <li>b. use skills for listening, summarizing, argumenting, etc. in discussions with fellow students and teacher.</li> <li>c. Use creativity and personal interests to work on making the final class project.</li> </ul> <p><u>Skills:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. formal musical or dance training is not necessary. Even though there is no musical prerequisite, the course is intended for students who enjoy music and dance or have a strong interest in learning about Latin American culture and Spanish language through artistic expression.</li> <li>b. explain and analyse personal thoughts.</li> <li>c. be able to aurally recognize and identify Latin American music genres and styles.</li> </ul> <p><u>Cognition:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. have a hands-on approach to learn and understand music styles.</li> <li>b. analyse the formal musical characteristics that define the songs or dance performances.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. the cultural area/country with which the tracks to be studied in class are associated.</li> <li>d. the lyrics of the piece, what they discuss.</li> <li>e. any broader issues discussed that relate to the piece or dance style.</li> <li>f. look up, learn and use specific Spanish vocabulary to increase the language skills.</li> </ul> <p>NB: The skills that students develop can differ from person to person, depending on their personal capacity, enthusiasm, and dedication. However, one of the most significant aspects is the process of learning together as a group, exercising and having fun.</p> <p>In this Latin American music course, the focus extends beyond individual learning. It places importance on the mutual reinforcement that occurs among students. By working together, students can support and strengthen each other's learning experiences. It's not just about individual growth; it's about creating a collaborative environment where everyone can thrive.</p> <p>The course will make use of digital materials in the form of videoclips, gamified dynamics, movies and music shared by the teacher, song lyrics, academic and media articles.</p>
Compulsory study materials:	Notebook, video, audio, handouts provided by the instructor (in class and online). For the dancing master classes, a bottle of water, comfortable sport shoes, a gym towel, a change of clothes (if needed).

**Course outline:**

Topic	No. of lesson	Notes
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Day 1: History of Latin America and its connection to music.	5	Pre-Columbian civilizations: the Aztecs, the Mayans, the Incas.
		Mesoamerican music instruments and vocal practices. The role of music in society, religion and politics. Dancing styles in Mesoamerica.
		Colonial Latin America: Social and political situation. Introduction of European instruments. Spanish and African influences on Mesoamerican music (fusions).
		Independence movements (the 19 <sup>th</sup> century), music as a tool of independence.
		The 20 <sup>th</sup> and 21 <sup>st</sup> centuries, revolutions, singing and playing instruments for rebellion, controversies, connections to other parts of the world.
		Watch a movie- Salsa (1988, in English).
Day 2: Latin American music styles (theoretical foundations).	5	Salsa, cumbia, bachata and reggaeton.
		Banda, tribal, modern folk music (per region) and corridos tumbados.
		Dance master class 1: Salsa and cumbia.
		Watch a documentary: Sensual - World's first bachata film! Games to practice history and music style concepts learned in days 1 and 2.
		Watch a documentary: MALUMA- Lo Que Era, Lo Que Soy, Lo Que Seré, in Spanish with English subtitles.
Day 3: Cultural and social circumstances of Latin American music	5	Lifestyle, politics and culture of Latin American countries through music (the cases of Mexico, Cuba, Colombia,



<p>in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Practicing Spanish and analysing lyrics through popular Latin American music hits.</p>		Peru, Argentina, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic).
		Dance master class 2: Bachata and reggaeton.
		Watch a movie: Son de la Calle (hip hop and reggaeton movie, in Spanish with English subtitles).
		Contemporary music instruments and performance.
		Listen to songs and analyzing of lyrics (one per gender).
<p>Day 4: Other music genres in Latin America (folk, pop, hip hop, trap, rock) and the influence of Latin American music in the world.</p>	5	Watch a documentary: The Global Rise of Mexican Music (part 1 and 2, in Spanish with English subtitles).
		Theoretical foundations of folk, pop, hip hop, trap, and rock in Latin America. Fusions between genres.
		Dance master class 3: Tribal, corridos tumbados, folk.
		More influences of American music in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century (international collaborations, social media, fashion, art, discographies, role models).
		Final class creative project presentations.

