

African music class offered for summer

MUS 407 is one of a few classes focusing on non-European music

By Maggie Young
Oregon Daily Emerald

A deep and powerful drum beat fills and expands a hot afternoon — African music is in the air.

This June marks the beginning of the sixth year of MUS 407, the African music class. Only offered as a summer course, this program strays from the traditional University music curriculum. While most music courses focus on European culture, this is the first class which centers on African music, said ethnomusicologist Don Addison, course designer and instructor.

The course is taught as an anthropology of music, Addison said. He teaches music that celebrates such topics as female elders, births, funerals and singing while working.

"I take an interdisciplinary approach to Africa as a continent with people and artistic traditions such as music," Addison said. "I teach how music functions in culture."

Spending three years researching music and culture in Nigeria boosted his enthusiasm for the subject.

"I saw how music functioned in the cultures," Addison said. "There are more uses to music than entertainment. I found that it

is important that people use music in all parts of their daily lives."

The concept of ethnomusicology involves music and its cultural context. This concept has only been around for about the last 50 years. The focus has traditionally been on European music, but more effort has been put into attracting non-European music as of late, Addison said.

"There has been more proliferation of non-Western music courses in the last five years than in the 123 years since the University was founded," he said.

Addison said that by expanding the number of multicultural courses the focus is not taken off of European music. Instead, the focus is widened and the students have a greater ability to cope in a multicultural world.

"Without multicultural experience, students are not prepared for a world that is so diversified," Addison said. "It makes good business sense to have an understanding of other peoples and cultures."

The shift away from a European-centered curriculum has also affected students.

"The change towards multicultural classes is an important move," said Yumi Ishii, sophomore pre-business administration major. "There are people out there who want to learn about music and culture that is not European."

Overgrown vegetation could dent pocket book

Grass has grown slower due to La Nina, but that could change

By Sara Jarrett
Oregon Daily Emerald

A week of warm weather can be more hassle than it's worth — if you own a lawn.

Overgrown vegetation, including grass, weeds and vines become major problems in the spring because they block vision, become fire risks and annoy the public.

Failure to mow and trim can cost property owners a minimum of \$166 dollars, according to Eugene City Codes.

Property owners are responsible for keeping vegetation below 10 inches in height. If the vegetation becomes too obnoxious or dangerous, city officials have the right to remove it at the owner's expense.

La Nina caused a colder spring than usual in Eugene, said Eric Cariaga, vegetation manager for the City of Eugene Department of Public Works. In response to the weather, the grass has grown slower than in previous years.

Cariaga projects that as the ground thaws, however, the sudden amount of moisture will cause the grass and other vegetation to grow very rapidly. This could cause a "visibility problem, sidewalk obstruction and street obstruction," Cariaga said.

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Wednesday, June 2

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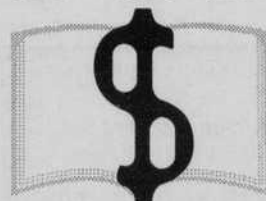
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