

GLUCK FELLOWSHIP DIGITAL DIY CURRICULUM SYLLABUS 2020-2021 (Form #6a)

EDUCATION | HEALTH | CULTURE | CREATIVITY

Introduce | Inspire | Involve | Impact

Jessica M. Gutierrez Masini

Department: Music

Exploring Native American Cultures through Powwow Songs & Dance

Abstract:

Do you know the original peoples of the land/air/water/fire you reside on? In this lesson, students actively engage in a short introduction to the histories and cultures of Native American peoples in the United States by singing and dancing to powwow music. Powwows are public intertribal (meaning peoples of different tribes coming together) social gatherings on weekends celebrating Native American cultures through food, song, dance, and storytelling. In bringing powwows to the classroom, students will learn the history and significance of powwows through song and dance. I discuss the drums connection to Native American worldviews including traditional gender roles and different styles of powwow dance songs. All students (and their families too) regardless of gender are encouraged to participate in drumming, singing, and dancing, as reflected in the changing gender dynamics of the powwow scene. Lastly, it is important to note that there is no distinction between powwow song and dance; they are complimentary, meaning one cannot happen without the other. In singing and moving to the powwow beats, students will have fun and come away with a new understanding of how histories and traditions are maintained and passed down through generations (orally, sonically, and corporeally).

Target Audience: High School, Family Learning

Learning Objectives/Outcomes:

By using this Digital DIY Curriculum students will:

- Name the original peoples whose territories their school and/or home currently occupies
- Explain Powwow elements (structure, purpose/meaning, etc.)
- Collaboratively perform two different styles of powwow dance and song

Jessica M. Gutierrez Masini is a fifth-year doctoral candidate in Ethnomusicology at the University of California, Riverside (UCR) with interdisciplinary research interests in feminist and decolonizing methodologies, music of the Americas, and music and identity formation. She is fascinated by how Native American peoples celebrate culture and create traditions through music and dance. In 2018, Jessica completed her M.A. at UCR with an engaged ethnomusicological project titled “Native American Indigeneity through Danza in University of California Powwows: A Decolonized Approach.” She has presented highlights from her research locally and nationally for the Society of Ethnomusicology, as well as, internationally at the Graduate Student Music Conference in Toronto, Canada. Jessica has been awarded the McLucas Fellowship from the Society for American Music and a Humanities Research Grant from the Center of Ideas and Society at UCR to expand her dissertation project to powwows throughout the Southwest, United States. She currently serves as Public Relations Officer for the Graduate Student Association and as the Performance Team Leader in a multidisciplinary campus project called #IndigenizeUCR. Jessica’s goal is to indigenize education by supporting Indigenous self-determination and connecting knowledge practices and resources to the communities she works for and with.

Gluck Creative Classroom Digital DIY files:

M_Exploring Native American Cultures through Powwow Songs & Dance-Intro.pdf

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RBd2Ezv9Rco6BnlUP1VrPSLbddgUw0f9/view?usp=sharing>

Activity:

M_Exploring Native American Cultures through Powwow Songs & Dance-Powwow Drum.mp4

<https://www.loom.com/share/73a2de5f8db8412ead2bc929baa2b3db>

M_Exploring Native American Cultures through Powwow Songs & DancePowwow Music mp4

<https://www.loom.com/share/f1963ef55f0d4e6c9a6cbcd36489ed4e>

M_Exploring Native American Cultures through Powwow Songs & DancePowwow Round Dance Song mp4

<https://www.loom.com/share/62bccd4b6e4e443aa0ed5257913f3afa>