Ashley N. Thornton

Curriculum Vitae

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Education

2018- **Ph.D. Ethnomusicology (ABD, anticipated Spring 2027)**, University of Texas at Austin
Concentrations: Kurdish popular music, American popular music, cultural intimacy in online spaces, virtuality, memory and trauma studies, MENA studies, Scandinavian studies, MENA refugee crisis in Europe, and digital humanities

2013-2018 **B.M. Performance: Instrumental**, Southeast Missouri State University
Concentrations: Western Percussion, Drumset, and Middle Eastern Percussion

2013-2018 **B.A. Anthropology**, Southeast Missouri State University
Concentrations: Sociocultural Anthropology, Language Preservation, and Ethnomusicology

Professional Appointments & Courses Taught

2026-2027 **Lecturer**, Texas State University; San Marcos, TX
MU 3318 World Music Cultures

2022-2024 **Assistant Instructor,** University of Texas at Austin; Austin, TX
MUS 307 History of Rock Music
MUS 303P Musicking, Conflict, and Violence

2018-2026 **Teaching Assistant**, University of Texas at Austin; Austin, TX
UGS 303 Music, Identity, and Difference
MUS 307 Music of African Americans
MUS 312C Music and Culture
MUS 303M Introduction to Music in World Cultures
MUS 302L Introduction to Western Music
MUS 313N Music History II
ENS 106T Middle Eastern Ensemble

Certifications

GRS 097: Fundamentals for Teaching Assistants; UT Austin

Inclusive Classrooms Leadership Certificate Seminar for Excellence in Teaching; UT Austin

Publications

Moore, Robin, Luis Ricardo Silva Queiroz, John Bimbiras, Caroline Rohm, and Ashley Thornton. "Ethnomusicology and Higher Education: Challenges, Trends, and Lessons from the Humanities." *Ethnomusicology* 65, no. 3 (2021): 413–443.

Conference Presentations

"Precarity of Virtualization: Layered Displacement in the Kurdish Exile Museum's Audio Collections." Society for Ethnomusicology Annual Meeting (Atlanta, GA). October 23-26, 2025.

"'Does Anyone Hear My Voice?:' Foregrounding of Sonic Trauma from Turkey and Syria's February 6th, 2023 Earthquake in Turkish Popular Music." American Musicological Society Annual Meeting (Chicago, IL). November 14-17, 2024.

"'Does Anyone Hear My Voice?:' Digital Cultural Intimacy and Sonic Witnessing in Turkish Popular Music Following the February 6th, 2023 Earthquake." Society for Ethnomusicology Annual Meeting (Virtual). October 17-26, 2024.

Guest Lectures and Presentations

"Battle of the Bachs" MUS 313N Music History II, UT Austin, Spring 2026

"Music, Memory, and Digital Cultures" MUS 303M Introduction to Music in World Cultures, UT Austin, Fall 2025

"Kurdish Culture, Borders/Borderlands, and Musical Hybridity" MUS 312C Music and Culture, UT Austin, Spring 2025

"Mobilizing Diaspora: Armenian Americans" UGS 303 Music, Identity, and Difference, UT Austin, Spring 2022

"Patronage in Ottoman Music" MUS 303M Introduction to Music and Culture, UT Austin, Fall 2021

"Global Trends: Kurdish Rap in Germany" MUS 307 Music of African Americans, UT Austin, Fall 2021

"Improvisation Over Arabic Rhythmic Modes" MUS 312C Music and Culture, UT Austin, Spring 2020

"Arabic Percussion Workshop" MUS 303M Introduction to Music and Culture, UT Austin, Spring 2019

"Kurdish Popular Music in the Diaspora" MUS 312C Music and Culture, UT Austin, Spring 2019

"Ives, Copland, and Cage" MUS 302L Introduction to Western Music, UT Austin, Fall 2018

Grants and Awards

2024	Swedish Excellence Endowment, Department of Germanic Studies, UT Austin
	Professional Development Award, Graduate School, UT Austin
2022	Assistant Instructor Special Topics Course Proposal Competition, UT Austin, for MUS 303P Musicking, Conflict, and Violence
2021	Kurmanji Kurdish Studies Scholarship, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, UT Austin
2020	Academic Year FLAS Fellowship, Persian, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, UT Austin
	American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT) Summer Fellowship for Advanced Turkish at Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey
2019	Academic Year FLAS Fellowship, Turkish, Center for European Studies, UT Austin
	Summer FLAS Fellowship, Turkish, Center for European Studies, UT Austin
	Summer FLAS Fellowship, Sorani Kurdish, Center for the Study of the Middle East, Indiana University Bloomington (declined)
2018	Butler Excellence Scholarship, UT Austin
	U.S. Department of State's Critical Language Scholarship, Turkish, Baku, Azerbaijan
	Provost Award for Academic Excellence, Southeast Missouri State University
	Department of Anthropology Outstanding Student, Southeast Missouri State University
2017	Middle Eastern Studies Student Study Abroad/Research Grant

2015	Bill Ewing Memorial Endowed Scholarship, Southeast Missouri State University
2015-2018	Donald K. Ford Percussion Endowed Scholarship
	Daniel O. Dunavan Percussion Endowed Scholarship
2013-2018	Music Workshop Award

Professional Service

2025-2026	SEM Disability and Deaf Studies Special Interest Group, Liaison
2024-2025	U.S. Department of State's Critical Language Scholarship, Primary Round Application Reviewer
2023-2025	SEM Music and Violence Special Interest Group, Co-Chair
2023-2024	SEM Southern Plains Chapter, Webmaster
2022-2024	SEM Disability and Deaf Studies Special Interest Group, Communications Coordinator
2022-2024	SEM Gender and Sexuality Studies, Webmaster
2019-2022	Percussion Director, "Bereket" Middle Eastern Ensemble, UT Austin
2016	Percussion Judge, SEMMEA Junior High All-District Band, Jackson, MO

Community Engagement

2024	Percussionist, Tisha b'Av Music of Elegy Concert, Congregation Agudas Achim Summer Music Series, Austin, TX
2019-2022	Kurdish/Persian Community Daf Ensemble, facilitated through "Bereket"
2019-2022	Free Private Lessons, Workshops, and Ensemble Coaching for Middle Eastern Percussion in Central Texas, facilitated through "Bereket"
2019	Refugee Student Mentorship Program, English Language Acquisition for Native Kurdish Speakers, Elementary

2016 Percussion and Steel Drum Summer Camp, Student Assistant, Cape Girardeau, MO

2015 Percussion and Steel Drum Summer Camp, Student Assistant, Cape Girardeau, MO

Professional Memberships

Society for Ethnomusicology (SEM)

Languages

Turkish - Advanced
Persian - Advanced
Kurmanji Kurdish - Intermediate
Swedish - Intermediate