

LESSON PLAN: GENDER AND SPIRITUALITY IN GARIFUNA MUSIC AND DANCE CULTURE

Created by:

BSAA Garifuna Group, Spring 2023



[“Umalali featuring the Garifuna Collective on the Peace Corps World Stage” by “Peace Corps”](#)

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Overview

In this lesson plan, students will learn about Garifuna culture by exploring some of its musical practices. They will read an article that discusses the traditional rituals highlighted in various Garifuna music and dance performances. In the article, they will also examine gender roles in Garifuna culture, and how Garifuna music has evolved over time to incorporate aspects of Punta Rock. Students will also watch video clips of an interview with Prof. Joseph Paul López Oro, which will help them grasp the differences between spirituality and religion in Garifuna culture and learn about how gender and sexuality is represented in the culture through its music. A study of the OER materials in this lesson will help students gain an understanding of how music, dance, spirituality, and gender roles intersect in Garifuna culture.

Audience

This lesson plan is mainly intended for undergraduate students.

Timeframe

This lesson plan can be completed within one hour and fifteen minutes.

Resources

Articles:

1. “Gender and Spirituality in Garifuna Music and Dance Culture”

Videos:

Discussing “Garifuna Spirituality & Religion”
https://youtu.be/oeMfP2-u_gU

Discussing “Garifuna Gender & Sexuality”
https://youtu.be/jQw6_evDHMI

BRIC Interview/Discussion regarding Garifuna spirituality (time stamped) <https://youtu.be/yaaiTtyIRjI?t=145>

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Learning outcomes

1. Understand the importance of religion and spirituality in Garifuna music practices.
2. Illustrate how music and dance performances play an important role in preserving Garifuna traditions.
3. Understand the differences between and significance of gender roles and norms in Garifuna music

Student Activities

<p>Part I. Spirituality and religion</p> <p>Learning outcomes:</p> <p>Illustrate how music and dance performances play an important role in preserving Garifuna traditions</p> <p>Understand the importance of religion and spirituality in Garifuna music practices.</p> <p>Duration: 1 hour</p>	<p><u>Student Activities:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Read the article: “Gender and Spirituality in Garifuna Music and Dance Culture” <p>Discussion questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. What kind of music might Garifuna people perform their ceremonies to?b. Pick a musical practice in Garifuna culture and explain its purpose.c. What similarities do you find between Garifuna sacred music and music from your culture?d. Create a Venn diagram comparing funeral practices in your culture and Garifuna culture. <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Watch the video: “In Conversation with Dr. Paul Joseph López Oro: On Spirituality and Religion”: https://youtu.be/oeMfP2-u_gU
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	<p>BRIC Interview/Discussion regarding Garifuna spirituality (time stamped) https://youtu.be/yaaITtyIRjI?t=145</p> <p>Discussion questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What are the effects of and reasonings behind “demonizing” indigenous spirituality practices? What is the importance of upholding indigenous practices? In what ways do spiritual practices and cultural preservation go hand in hand? How would you explain the relationship between spirituality and religion after watching the interview?
<p>Part II: Gender and sexuality</p> <p>Learning outcome:</p> <p>Understand the differences between and significance of gender roles and norms in Garifuna music</p> <p>Duration: 30 minutes</p>	<p><u>Student Activities:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Watch the video: “In Conversation with Dr. Paul Joseph López Oro: On Gender and Sexuality” https://youtu.be/jQw6_evDHMI <p>Discussion Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Why do you think the femme spirit or energy is so important in spiritual practices? What could be the significance? In what ways are the fluidity of gender and sexuality celebrated? In what ways are set gender roles established? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Read Article “Gender and Spirituality in Garifuna Music and Dance Culture” <p>Discussion Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Why do women sing and men play the drums in the Dugu ceremony?

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	<p>b. How do gender roles relate to spirituality in Garifuna culture?</p> <p>c. How have gender roles evolved in the Punta genre?</p>
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