



# THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE OF RHYTHM:

## Explorations Through **Konnakol** and **Black American Music**

**Course #:** Music 497, Sec 096 (3 cr)

**Day/Time:** Fall 2021 | Mon & Wed: 4:00–5:15 pm

**Location:** 2441 Humanities Bldg | 455 N. Park St.

**Credits:** 3 | Counts for some certificate and major requirements through Music and Center for South Asia\*

**Prereq:** None. No prior formal music study is required.

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Composer and saxophonist **Arun Luthra** is an American musician of Indian heritage who fuses modern post bop jazz with elements of Indian classical music – especially konnakol (South Indian classical music vocal percussion) – and connects a wide range of modern and classic and Eastern and Western musical influences to create a vibrant new sound and style.

He is the leader of the **Konnakol Jazz Project** and has studied and performed with notable Hindustani and Carnatic music masters. Luthra has also shared the stage and recorded with many of the greatest jazz, Afro-Cuban, Brazilian, and pop artists.

*\* This course counts towards the degree requirements of the B.M. in Performance (jazz studies track) and the undergraduate Center for South Asia's certificate and Foreign Language and Area Studies.*

### ABOUT THE COURSE

This course will be an introduction to konnakol – the Carnatic (South Indian classical) music discipline of vocalizing rhythms. Students will learn konnakol, and explore the universality of rhythm through science, history, politics, and more. Blending konnakol with other musical traditions, particularly Black American Music, will also be examined, and students will present creative works that incorporate konnakol concepts into creative projects ranging from music to poetry, prose, dance, scholarly papers, and beyond.

The course will consist of a weekly konnakol lesson/practice session and a weekly lecture/discussion. The lecture/discussion will explore rhythm's connections to science, history, politics, etc., and the parallels between the developments of Indian musics and Black American Music within the political, social, and economic systems of the United States and of colonialism generally.

**MORE INFORMATION: [GO.WISC.EDU/LUTHRA](https://go.wisc.edu/luthra)**