

COURSE SYLLABUS



MUS 360: American Popular Music

Instructor: Greg Eden

Office Hours: TBA

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Course Description:

This is a lecture/demonstration course that will trace the birth and evolution of popular music in America from its roots in nineteenth century, jazz, blues, country and rock music through the artists and songs that define the genre.

Course Text: American Popular Music: From Minstrelsy to MP3 by Larry Starr and Christopher Waterman (with CDs). USA: Oxford University Press, 2th Edition.

Course Objectives:

This course will connect the popular music of America's past to its current state as we currently experience it in today's multimedia world. The course will also discuss rock music as it related to the sociopolitical events of the day as well as the various artists and personalities which helped to propel rock music to its status today. The business of the music will also be discussed as well as what the future holds for the genre. Students will develop music listening skills, skills to understand the fundamentals of how each style is crafted, as well as expand their musical vocabulary.

Course Requirements

As this course seeks to develop appreciation skills with different styles and periods of music in our country, it is assumed that all students will attend and actively participate in class discussions.

It is assumed that all students will read the required texts and listen to the examples from the required listening list. It is assumed that all assignments will be completed by the dates given. There will be several smaller exams taken from the readings and the listening, with a midterm and final exam.

List of Course Topics

Jan. 14 and 16	Popular Music of the 19 th and Early 20 th Centuries
Jan. 21 and 23	Social Dance and Jazz 1917-1935
Jan. 28 and 30	The Golden Age of Tin Pan Alley Song
Feb. 4 and 6	Race Records and Hillbilly Music
Feb. 11 and 13	The Swing Era 1935-1945
Feb. 18 and 20	The Postwar Era 1946-1954
Feb. 25 and 27	Rock 'n' Roll 1954-1959
Mar. 10 and 12	American Pop and the British Invasion of the 1960s
Mar. 17 and 19	Country, Soul, Urban Folk and the Rise of Rock, 1960s
Mar. 24 and 26	The 1970s: Rock Music and the Popular Mainstream
Mar. 31 and Apr. 2	Progressive Country, Reggae, Punk, Funk, and Disco, 1970s
Apr. 7 and 9	The 1980s: Digital Technology, MTV and the Pop Mainstream

Apr. 14 and 16 Hip-Hop, "Alternative" Music, and the Entertainment Business
Apr. 21 and 23 The Future of Rock 'n' Roll

Grading Criteria

Grading will be based on tests/ exams totaling 1000 points

12 multiple-choice tests to be given over the course of the semester (600 points)

Midterm Exam (150 points)

Final Exam (250 points)

Grading Scale

A	910-1000	C+	770-800	F	600 and below
B+	870-900	C	710-760		
B	810-860	D	610-700		

Attendance Policy

Three absences over the course of the semester will be allowed. Only written University-approved absence(s) will be allowed over that amount. No makeup tests/exams will be allowed. Students are expected to be in class on time. If the student is late for more than ten minutes, the student is considered absent.

Academic Honesty Statement

It is hoped that students will conform to the University's policy of Academic Honesty in all written assignments, tests and quizzes. Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in a grade of F for the test/paper and/or the course. (Please refer to University policy on Academic Dishonesty).

Class Cancellation Policy

If it is necessary for me to cancel a class, I will notify the class via Creighton University email. If the weather is very bad, it is assumed that the student will call the weather hotline, (402) 280-5800.