

KNU Course Syllabus

Course Title	The History of American Popular Music
Course Code	blank
Credits	3.0
Department	blank
Semester	2017S
Course Categories	blank
Instructor	Anthony Olson
Hours	blank
Location	blank
Phone/E-mail	aolson@nwmissouri.edu
Office Hours	blank
language	English

Syllabus

<p><u>Course Goals and Objectives</u></p> <p><u>Course Description:</u> This course provides a cultural, social, and historical analysis of American Popular Music. The course also includes discussion of the relevant elements of music.</p> <p><u>Rationale:</u> This course is designed to help students develop an understanding of the history and cultural context of American Popular music. The class exposes students to important musical examples and helps them understand how these works fit into their historical and cultural context.</p> <p><u>Course Objectives:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students will develop the ability to identify and discuss the basic elements of music: rhythm, melody, harmony, texture, and form. 2. Students will learn about the different styles of American popular music and their relationship to their cultural/historical/social settings. 3. Students will express informed opinions based on an understanding of American popular music and its stylistic development. <p><u>Content: Topics will include the following:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Historical Developments (Minstrelsy, Tin Pan Alley, Recorded Music, Race Records, Hillbilly Records, American Folk Revival, Swing Music, Globalization, etc.) 2. Styles of American Popular Music (Country, Jazz, Rock, R & B, Urban Folk, Disco, Reggae, Funk, Hip-Hop, Techno, etc.) 3. Diversity in American Popular Music (Personal/Cultural Identity, Technology, the Music Business, Musical Preferences, Race and Gender, etc.)
<p><u>Textbook and other references</u></p> <p>Recommended text: Starr, Larry and Christopher Waterman. (2010). <u>American Popular Music: from Minstrelsy to MP3</u> (3rd edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press.</p>
<p><u>Course Description, Methods, and Materials</u></p>

Class time will be devoted to lecture/discussion as well as time spent on guided listening of selected music.

Assignments, Grading Criteria, Prerequisite Subject

Midterm Exam: 25% of course grade

Final Exam: 30% of course grade

Writing Assignments: 15% of course grade (3 assignments at 5% each) NOTE: you may re-write any written assignments if you do not like the grade earned – up to 3 re-writes accepted for each assignment. ALSO NOTE: Late written assignments will be accepted (up until the deadline for re-writes), but grade will only receive 75% credit.

Music Genealogy Project: 10% of course grade. NOTE: Late projects will NOT be accepted.

Class Participation: 20% of course grade.

NOTE: any student who misses more than 12 hours of class time will automatically receive a final grade of 'F.'

Notice To Students

1. Students should come to class in time.
2. Cheating is not allowed.
3. Students will have a better understanding in the lectures when they read the reading materials assigned for each class before they come to class.
4. Questions in class are welcome and expected.

Academic Support for Students with Disabilities

Course Outline:

WEEK 1 DAY 1

BEFORE TECHNOLOGY

1. Intro to the course
2. Basic Elements of Music
3. Historical Topics Covered
 - a. Introductory Perspectives
 - b. “Themes and Streams” of American Popular Music
 - c. Music and Identity
 - d. Minstrel Shows / Stephen Foster
 - e. Brass Bands

WEEK 1 DAY 2

1. Historical Topics Covered
 - a. Tin Pan Alley
 - b. Ragtime
 - c. Rise of the phonograph
2. Before Technology Review
3. **AFTER THE PHONOGRAPH**
3. More Historical Topics Covered
 - a. Technology and business / Social Dance / James Reese Europe
4. Discuss Writing Assignment #1

WEEK 1 DAY 3

1. Historical Topics Covered
 - a. Dixieland
 - b. Other forms of early jazz
 - c. Tin Pan Alley
 - d. Race Records
 - e. Country Blues
 - f. Hillbilly music
 - g. Music of the Great Depression

WEEK 1 DAY 4

1. Writing Assignment #1 due AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS
2. Historical Topics Covered
 - a. Race in American Popular Music
 - b. The Swing Era
 - c. Big Band Blues
 - d. Country and Latin Swing
 - e. The End of the Swing Era

WEEK 1 DAY 5

1. Review and Catch-up
2. After the Phonograph Review
3. Discuss Writing Assignment #2
4. Review for Midterm Exam
5. Discuss Genealogy Project if time allows

WEEK 2 DAY 1

1. Final RE-WRITES for Writing Assignment #1 due
2. Midterm Exam
- RISE OF THE TAPE RECORDER**
3. Historical Topics Covered
 - a. Music Technology and the rise of Independent Record Companies in the Post-war Era
 - b. Rise of the Star Singer
 - c. Other trends
 - d. Southern Music after the War

WEEK 2 DAY 2

1. Writing Assignment #2 due AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS
2. Historical Topics Covered
 - a. Rhythm and Blues
 - b. Country and Western
 - c. Rock 'n' Roll
 - d. Rock 'n' Roll Stars
3. Discuss and begin Musical Genealogy Project

WEEK 2 DAY 3

1. Historical Topics Covered
 - a. Gender in American Popular Music
 - b. Producers of Rock 'n' Roll
2. Rise of the Tape Recorder Review

THE 60S

3. More Historical Topics Covered
 - a. The 60's / Phil Spector
 - b. Motown
 - c. The Beach Boys

WEEK 2 DAY 4

1. Historical Topics Covered
 - a. the British Invasion
 - b. Latin music in the '60s
 - c. The 'Cross-over'
 - d. Nashville
 - e. Soul music
 - f. Urban Folk
2. Discuss Writing Assignment #3

WEEK 2 DAY 5

1. Final RE-WRITES for Writing Assignment #2 due
2. Historical Topics Covered
 - a. The "Counterculture" of the 60s
 - b. Psychedelic Rock in the '60s
3. The 60s Review
4. WORK DAY on Genealogy Project

WEEK 3 DAY 1

1. Writing Assignment #3 due

The 70s

2. Historical Topics Covered
 - a. American Culture in 70s
 - b. The 'Mainstream' in the 70s
 - c. Country
 - d. Hardcore Country
 - e. "Outlaw" Country
 - f. Rock
 - g. Heavy Metal
 - h. Punk
 - i. Disco

WEEK 3 DAY 2

1. Historical Topics Covered
 - a. Reggae
 - b. Salsa
 - c. Latin Rock
 - d. Funk
 - e. Rap
2. The 70s Review

WEEK 3 DAY 3

1. Musical Genealogy Project due
- ## Going Digital
2. Historical Topics Covered
 - a. Digital technology

- b. Hit Albums
 - c. Prince/Madonna/production of “celebrity”
 - d. Hop-hop
 - e. Techno
 - f. Alternate currents
 - g. Women’s voices
 - h. Globalization and World Music
3. Going Digital Review
 4. Begin Presentation of Genealogy Projects (if time allows)

WEEK 3 DAY 4

1. Final RE-WRITES for Writing Assignment #3 due AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS
2. Review for Final Exam
3. Presentation of Genealogy Projects

WEEK 3 DAY 5

1. Final Exam
2. Wrap-Up and Reflection
3. Continuation of Genealogy Projects as needed

Cheating, plagiarism, and other dishonest practices will be punished as harshly as Kyungpook National University policies allow. The University specifies that cheating is grounds for dismissal. Penalties less severe may be imposed instead. A list of possible disciplinary actions is given below. Actions by the university:

- Failure in course
- Suspension from university for a designated period
- Expulsion from university