

MSU Texas
Department of Music
Course Syllabus: Appreciation of Music
College of Fine Arts
MUSC 1033 Section 144
Fall Semester 2019

Contact Information

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*Note: The textbook, homework, and quizzes are **online**. Students are expected to check their official MSU email and log in to the Connect 4 Education site regularly for readings, homework, and announcements.
<https://c4elink.org/login/index.php>

Course Description

The course will enhance your enjoyment and understanding of the music you already know, as well as introduce you to less familiar styles and genres. You will understand popular music within the context of the history of popular music making in America since 1840. You will be able to hear a popular song and be able to identify it by style and time period. You will become more aware of how popular music is advertised, sold and consumed in a global economy. You will develop critical listening skills and become more informed consumers of popular music. We will explore several recurring themes throughout the course:

1. The changing features of popular music in America
2. The elements of music that define songs by style and genre
3. The influence of mass media and technology
4. The economy of popular music
5. The role of popular music as a symbol of identity (race, class, gender, and generation)

Learning Methods

Online Recordings—listening and analysis through Spotify
Online Textbook readings and listening assignments
Online Learning Modules – PowerPoint lectures, YouTube videos
Web site—announcements, course material, links, assigned reading

Reading/Listening

There are **35 lessons** for this semester which including readings, listening assignments and homework quizzed that must be prepared before each class.

*Note – we will not be studying every lesson, and some lessons will be numerically out of order. This is to be able to group lessons by musical style.

Textbook and Instructional Materials

Are all available through the course website.

Go to: <https://store.connect4education.com/product/onamerican-popular-music/?dids=2>

Or, access cards are available in the campus bookstore for purchase.

****Please use your official MSU Texas email address when registering for the site!**

Online Course Technical Support

Technical support for this course is provided through Connect 4 Education. If you are having technical problems you must **first contact support by clicking “Technical Support” on the tab to the left**, or at support@connect4education.com or the Student Support website. Support can also be reached at 703-880-1180 x200 if you would prefer to speak to a technician by phone. Support Hours: Monday through Friday 9AM - 6PM Eastern Time.

Technical problems are not an excuse for incomplete or late work. It is the students’ responsibility to make sure that the computer they choose to use for this course is in good working condition and meets the website requirements. **If a student’s personal computer is not working, it is expected that the student will find one that is working.** Both PC and Mac users must have the latest version of Flash player working on their computers. The website can be operated through Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, or Safari.

Listening Examples: Spotify

All songs can be listened to through Spotify, a free, online streaming music app and web resource. It is helpful to download Spotify onto your computer and have it open when accessing musical examples.

Time Zone Requirements:

Students are expected to complete all quizzes, exams, assignments and projects by **11:59 pm Central Time**. Even if a student is currently living in a time zone other than Central Time, their assignments are still due by **11:59 pm Central Time**. Please take note of the differences between your time zone and Central Time Zone.

Learning Modules:

There are added learning modules to help students better understand the reading and listening materials. First, complete the reading and listening assignments. Be sure to try out the "Test Yourself," the "Discover Video," "Keywords," "Artist Profile," and other modules.

Grading

Assignments	Percentage of Final Grade
Quizzes	50%
Written Assignments	10%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	Less than 60%

Quizzes:

There are quizzes for each chapter that we will cover in this class. Quizzes match up with the chapter content and equal one quiz for each day of classes. All the quizzes are open from the first day of class and have due dates for each. The quizzes will close on that date and will no longer be available to take.

All quizzes are due by 11:59 pm the day before the next lesson. For example: Lesson 1 quiz is open from **Aug. 26 until Sept. 1 @ 11:59pm.**

Keep in mind that the practice questions, found under the "Test Yourself" section in the reading are very similar to the questions on the quizzes and make for good practice!

Exams:

There are two major exams for this course, a Midterm and a Final Exam and attendance is required.

The Midterm Exam is due 10/25/19

The Final Exam is due 12/12/19

Participation Extra Credit:

Students will have the ability to achieve 3% points towards their final grade. Details will be discussed in class.

Attendance Policy:

You will be allowed 5 unexcused absence per semester without penalty. After 5 a written report will be send to the Dean of Students noting your excessive absence. In addition each subsequent absence will result in the lowering of your final grade by 2% per absence.

Written Assignments:

There are 3 concert reports written assignments to be completed throughout the semester.

Writing Assignment Rubric

Length: 500 word minimum

90-100: Clearly written, with little to no grammatical errors, and robustly describes/answers the question(s) given in the assignment.

80-89: Clearly written, with few to little grammatical errors, and describes/answers the question(s) given in the assignment.

70-79: Has some grammatical errors, but is readable. Content and information when answering the question(s) given in the assignment is lacking or incomplete.

60-69: Has many grammatical errors and is not easy to read or follow. Content and information when answering the question(s) given in the assignment is lacking or incomplete.

0-59: Is unreadable, does not answer the question(s) in any manor or is less than 500 words.

Late Work

Late work will not be accepted without documentation indicting the excuse to miss the work. (i.e doctors note, university activates, etc.)

Course Schedule

Lecture Date	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Quiz Due Date @23:59
8/28	Lesson 1 - American Popular Music in the Nineteenth Century	9/8
8/30	Lesson 2 - Tin Pan Alley and Ragtime	9/10
9/4	Lesson 3 - Rural Blues and Urban Blues	9/5
9/6	Lesson 4 - Dixieland	9/8
9/9	Lesson 5 - Swing and Big Bands	9/10
9/11	Lesson 38 - Popular Music and Controversy After 9/11	9/12

Lecture Date	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Quiz Due Date @23:59
9/13	Lesson 7 - Hillbilly and Country and Western Music	9/15
9/16	Lesson 17 - Bluegrass	9/17
9/18	Written Assignment 01-No Class	9/19
9/20	Lesson 8 - Traditional Pop in the 1940s and 1950s	9/19
9/23	Lesson 9 - Doo-Wop and Rhythm and Blues	9/24
9/25	Lesson 10 - Early Rock and Roll	9/26
9/27	Lesson 11 - Rockabilly	9/29
9/30	Lesson 12 - Teen-Styled Rock Music in the Early 1960s	10/1
10/2	Lesson 13 - The Record Producer and the Rise of Surf Rock	10/3
10/4	Written Assignment 02-No Class	10/6
10/7	Lesson 14 - Soul	10/8
10/9	Lesson 15 - The British Invasion	10/10
10/11	Lesson 16 - American Reactions to the British Invasion	10/13
10/14	Lesson 18 - Folk and Folk Rock	10/15
10/16	Lesson 19 - Psychedelic Rock	10/17
10/18	Midterm Review	10/25
10/21	NO Class	
10/23	NO Class	
10/25	MID TERM DUE @ 23:59	10/25
10/25	Lesson 21 - Country Rock and Southern Rock	10/27
10/28	Lesson 24 - Country Music Goes Mainstream	10/29
10/30	Lesson 22 - From Soul to Funk	10/31
1/1	Lesson 23 - Funk	11/3
11/4	Lesson 25 - Hard Rock and Heavy Metal	11/5
11/6	Lesson 30 - Heavy Metal in the 1980s	11/7
11/8	Lesson 27 - Punk Rock and New Wave	11/10
11/11	Written Assignment-03 NO Class	11/12
11/13	Lesson 29 - MTV	11/14
11/15	Lesson 31 - Hip-Hop's Roots and Origins	11/17
11/18	Lesson 32 - Hip-Hop Comes of Age	11/19
11/20	Lesson 35 - Hip-Hop in the 1990s	11/21
11/22	Lesson 33 - The Rise of Alternative Rock	11/24
11/25	Lesson 34 - Alternative and Metal in the 1990s	11/26
12/2	Lesson 37 - Country Music in the 1980s and 1990s	12/3
12/4	Lesson 41 - Mexican American Popular Music	10/5
12/6	Review and Written Assignment-04	
12/6	FINAL	12/12

Schedule of Assignments: Please refer to the home page or the calendar on the course website for a full schedule of reading assignments, listening assignments, quizzes, written assignments, exams, and projects.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2018-19](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures: Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Students with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil protections for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment which provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. In accordance with state and federal law, MSU provides academic accommodations to students with documented disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) in Room 168 of the Clark Student Center (phone 940-397-4140). The instructor is under no obligation to offer accommodations for students with disabilities who are not registered with DSS.

Campus Carry: Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at <https://mwsu.edu/campus-carry/rules-policies>.

Student Privacy: Federal privacy law prohibits the instructor from releasing information about students to certain parties outside of the university without the signed consent of the student. Thus, in almost all cases the professor will not discuss a student's academic progress or other matters with his/her parents. Please do not have them call. Regardless of these important legal considerations, the professors' general policy is to communicate with the students, not their parents, even when a student has signed a consent form. College students are adults and are expected to behave accordingly.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty including plagiarism and giving or receiving unauthorized assistance is prohibited. Plagiarism is (1) the use of source material of other persons (either published or unpublished, including the Internet) without following the accepted techniques of giving credit or (2) the

submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given. If a student in the class plagiarizes material, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken. The Student Honor Creed developed and adopted by the MSU Student Government reinforces the discouragement of plagiarism and other unethical behaviors. The first statement of the creed reads, "As an MSU student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so." Plagiarism is lying, cheating, and stealing.

Social Justice: Social justice is one of Midwestern State University's stated core values, and the professor considers the classroom a place where students are treated with respect as human beings, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Moreover, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided the students can agree to disagree. The professor's expectation is that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment.

Students Expectations/Conduct: Students are required to participate in all class activities. Students are to read weekly assignments, prepare questions, and prepare to answer questions regarding assigned readings. Readings are reviewed in class for clarity and understanding.

Students are to conduct themselves in a professional manner so that all students may learn without distraction or disruption.

College students are adults and are expected to behave accordingly. Classroom behavior that interferes with either the instructor's ability to conduct class or the ability of the other students to benefit from instruction will result in the instructor's removing the disruptive student(s) from class.

Disclaimer: Because this course is centered around popular music and culture in America there may be some topics that some may deem controversial. Students will be notified before such content is shown or discussed. If any student feels uncomfortable they are free to excuse themselves without penalty and return when we have moved past the topic in question.