

MUSC 1043X American Popular Music

MSU Texas

Department of Music

Instructor: Dr. Sarah Dunbar

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Office hours TBD and by appointment

*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 the student's appreciation and understanding of music already known, as well as introduce less familiar styles and genres. Students will understand American popular music within the context of the history of America since 1840. Students will be able to hear a popular song and be able to identify it by style and time period, become more aware of how popular music is advertised, sold and consumed in a global economy. Students will develop critical listening skills and become more informed consumers of popular music exploring several recurring themes throughout the course:

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

Learning Methods

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

Reading/Listening

There are 41 lessons for this semester which including readings, listening assignments and homework quizzes that must be prepared before each class.

*Note –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 Standard 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 Standard 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	30%
Written Assignments	10%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Journal Entry	5%
Group Research Project	15%

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

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

Quizzes

There are quizzes for each lesson 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.

*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. The midterm covers lessons 1-20; the final covers lessons 21-41. Each exam is 80 questions and has a two-hour time limit.

Journal Entry

This class focuses on American Popular music and this project is intended for you to take the opportunity to delve into your favorite music. You will choose an artist or band and include the following information in a paper. **Minimum of 500 words.**

The Journal Entry will include:

1. A definition of your chosen artist or band’s genre
2. What about the artist/band’s music, and the music of the genre, that you find compelling
3. A timeline of the artist/bands development, including individual band members, bands and other information you deem pertinent
4. Examples (with YouTube links as possible) of your favorite songs by this artist/band, with an explanation as to why you chose each example and what you hear in it that makes it a favorite.

Written Assignments

There are four written assignments to be completed throughout the semester. Each writing assignment rubric (directions) can be found on the class day for which it is due. **Minimum of 500 words.**

Group Research Project

All students enrolled must complete a student group research project. In doing so, each student group will create an online study module that could be used to teach material from one of the chapters listed in your online reading using Power Point or Google Slides. Group assignments will be posted. Groups will choose a band or artist and present four important components:

The Presentation will include:

1. Background biography
2. Musical features of at least three songs
3. Description of how their music is representative of a particular style (by musical features)
4. Description of the social, cultural, or political aspects affecting their music or career
5. All research projects must include:
 - a. At least one book source
 - b. At least one scholarly journal article.

Students/Groups will:

1. Explore an artist/band in depth
2. Complete the project on time
3. Work both as a team and individually contribute work needed to complete the project.
4. Foster a positive team climate and respond to conflict in a professional manner
5. Recognize and uphold shared ethical values and standards
6. Use terminology and other prior knowledge learned throughout the course as well as outside knowledge that can contribute to the project.

Project Deadline: All final projects are due by: **12/3/21 @ 11:59PM**

Grading Criteria

- Background Biography (100 points possible)
- Musical Features of Three Songs (100 points possible)
- Stylistic Context of Three Songs (100 points possible)
- Social, Cultural, or Political Aspects Affecting their Music or Career (100 points possible)
- Teamwork (100 points possible)

Recommended Course Schedule

Assigned Date	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
8/23	Review Syllabus and Register for Connect for Edu	8/31 @ 11:59pm
8/25	Lesson 1 - American Popular Music in the Nineteenth Century	10/7 @ 11:59pm
8/27	Lesson 2 - Tin Pan Alley and Ragtime	10/7 @ 11:59pm
8/30	Lesson 3 - Rural Blues and Urban Blues	10/7 @ 11:59pm
9/1	Lesson 4 - Dixieland	10/7 @ 11:59pm
9/3	Lesson 5 - Swing and Big Bands	10/7 @ 11:59pm
9/8	Lesson 6 – Broadway and the Development of the American Musical	10/7 @ 11:59pm
9/10	Lesson 7 - Hillbilly and Country and Western Music	10/7 @ 11:59pm
9/13	Lesson 17 - Bluegrass	10/7 @ 11:59pm
9/13	Written Assignment 01	10/7 @ 11:59pm

9/15	Lesson 8 - Traditional Pop in the 1940s and 1950s	10/7 @ 11:59pm
9/17	Lesson 9 - Doo-Wop and Rhythm and Blues	10/7 @ 11:59pm
9/20	Lesson 10 - Early Rock and Roll	10/7 @ 11:59pm
9/22	Lesson 11 - Rockabilly	10/7 @ 11:59pm
9/24	Lesson 12 - Teen-Styled Rock Music in the Early 1960s	10/7 @ 11:59pm
9/27	Lesson 13 - The Record Producer and the Rise of Surf Rock	10/7 @ 11:59pm
9/27	Written Assignment 02	10/7 @ 11:59pm
9/29	Lesson 14 - Soul	10/7 @ 11:59pm
10/1	Lesson 15 - The British Invasion	10/7 @ 11:59pm
10/4	Lesson 16 - American Reactions to the British Invasion	10/7 @ 11:59pm
10/6	Lesson 18 - Folk and Folk Rock	10/7 @ 11:59pm
10/8	Lesson 19 - Psychedelic Rock	10/7 @ 11:59pm
10/8	Lesson 20 – Midterm Exam	10/10 @ 11:59pm
10/11	Start Project	
10/11	Lesson 21 - Country Rock and Southern Rock	12/3 @ 11:59pm
10/13	Lesson 24 - Country Music Goes Mainstream	12/3 @ 11:59pm
10/15	Lesson 22 - From Soul to Funk	12/3 @ 11:59pm
10/18	Lesson 23 – Funk	12/3 @ 11:59pm
10/20	Lesson 26 - Disco	12/3 @ 11:59pm
10/22	Lesson 25 - Hard Rock and Heavy Metal	12/3 @ 11:59pm
10/25	Lesson 30 - Heavy Metal in the 1980s	12/3 @ 11:59pm
10/27	Lesson 27 - Punk Rock and New Wave	12/3 @ 11:59pm
10/27	Written Assignment 03	12/3 @ 11:59pm
10/29	Lesson 28 – Detroit Techno	12/3 @ 11:59pm
11/1	Lesson 29 - MTV	12/3 @ 11:59pm
11/1	Journal Entry	12/3 @ 11:59pm
11/3	Lesson 31 - Hip-Hop's Roots and Origins	12/3 @ 11:59pm
11/5	Lesson 32 - Hip-Hop Comes of Age	12/3 @ 11:59pm
11/8	Lesson 35 - Hip-Hop in the 1990s	12/3 @ 11:59pm
11/10	Lesson 33 - The Rise of Alternative Rock	12/3 @ 11:59pm
11/11	Lesson 34 - Alternative and Metal in the 1990s	12/3 @ 11:59pm
11/15	Lesson 36 – Hybrids and Genres Without Definition	12/3 @ 11:59pm
11/17	Lesson 37 - Country Music in the 1980s and 1990s	12/3 @ 11:59pm
11/19	Lesson 38 - Popular Music and Controversy After 9/11	12/3 @ 11:59pm
11/22	Lesson 39- Music Creation and Distribution in the 21 st Century	12/3 @ 11:59pm
11/29	Lesson 40- Conjunto Music	12/3 @ 11:59pm
12/1	Lesson 41 - Mexican American Popular Music	12/3 @ 11:59pm
12/1	Written Assignment 04	12/3 @ 11:59pm
	Research Project Presentation Due	12/3 @ 11:59pm
12/3	FINAL	12/8 @ 11:59pm

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.

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

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2019-2020](#)

COVID-19 Links

<https://msutexas.edu/coronavirus/index.php>

<https://msutexas.edu/return-to-campus/assets/files/return-to-campus-taskforce-8-4-20.pdf>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/117HY4z4mY5izJpR44ejuZ8rhTyoWEGEG/view>

Conduct Statement

Behavior that interferes with either the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to benefit from the instruction will result in the instructor's removing the disruptive student(s) from the class, either temporarily or permanently (instructor drop), and receive a final lower grade, up to an F. In addition, and depending on the nature of the behavior or conduct, the student(s) may be subject to further disciplinary actions as per MSU policies.

Academic Dishonesty Statement

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 of the individuals to whom credit is given. If a student in the class is caught plagiarizing, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken. The Student 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 to do so." Plagiarism is lying, cheating, and stealing.

The university policy and procedures for academic dishonesty are outlined in the current Student Handbook in Appendix E. No cheating, collusion, or plagiarism will be tolerated in this class. Any student engaging in an academic dishonesty act will be sanctioned appropriately.

Student Privacy Statement

EXAMPLE: Federal law prohibits the instructor from releasing information about students to parties outside the university without the signed consent of the student. Thus, in almost all cases the instructor will not discuss a student's academic progress or other matters with his/her parents without the proper release from students.

Campus Carry Statement

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 [Campus Carry Rules/Policies](#).

The instructor reserves the right to change any part of this syllabus for any reason. The student will receive sufficient notice of any changes. By remaining enrolled in this course, the student indicates acceptance and understanding of the syllabus.