



Course Syllabus: **American Popular Music**
College of Fine Arts
MUSC 1043

Contact Information

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Textbook & 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!**

Course Description

The course will enhance the students' appreciation and understanding of already known music, 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; and (5) The role of popular music as a symbol of identity (race, class, gender, and generation).

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2021-22](#)

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Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individuals to whom credit is given).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](#)

Grading/Assessment

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Precent
Quizzes	30
Written Assignments	10
Journal Entry	5
Midterm Exam	20
Group Project	15
Final Exam	20
Total	100

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	900
B	800 to 899
C	700 to 799
D	600 to 699
F	Less than 600

Homework

Reading/Listening

There are lessons for this semester which including reading, listening assignments and homework quizzes that must be completed by the midterm and final.

*Note –Some lessons will be numerically out of order. This is to be able to group lessons by musical style.

Written Assignments

There are 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.**

Grading Rubric for Written Assignments

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 manner or is less than 500 words.

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. For example: Lesson 1 quiz is open from **Aug. 25 to Sept 26 @ 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

Exams

Exam details should be provided: how many, their point values or percentage of the overall grade, when, and whether or not they are timed. These will appear on the Course Schedule in more detail.

Projects Required

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.

The Journal Entry will include:

1. define of your music genre style
2. What is it about musicians/band's music and the music of the genre in general that you find compelling?
3. Give a timeline of the genres' development, individual band members, bands, and other information you deem pertinent
4. Include examples (with links as possible) of your favorite songs, with an explanation of why you chose each example and what you hear in it that makes it a favorite.

Students will:

1. Explain and define their genre
2. Give evidence for the genre's significance and contributions to music and society
3. Describe how the genre has changed over time
4. Give a perspective on their favorite artist and what influence they artists have on their lives.
5. Include musical examples to why each was chosen to be of their favorite songs, makes those examples their favorite

Group Research Project

As already outlined in your syllabus, 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. Groups will choose a band or artist and will 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 due TBD

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)

Important Dates

Deadline to file for graduation: Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Last Day to drop with a grade of “W:” Check date on [Academic Calendar](#). And refer [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

MSU D2L program is not a part of this course. There will be a copy of the syllabus and how to purchase materials. Most if not all communication, grading, materials will be on the Connect for Education site.

Attendance

You will be allowed 5 unexcused absences per semester without penalty. After 5 a written report will be sent 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.

How be counted as present is to place you phone on you name at the front of the class.

Online Computer Requirements

Listening Examples: Will be on **Spotify**

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.

Instructor Class Policies

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.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the [Schedule of Classes](#) each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans, and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make an application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU TEXAS. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “*Run. Hide. Fight.*” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)

Inclement Weather Statement

Key decision-makers will monitor weather projections and communicate with local news agencies and WFISD leadership to make a delay or cancellation decision. Notification occurs through official campus channels and in communication with the local news networks. MSU channels include MSU Alert, MSU Safety app, Postmaster, website headers, MSU Police, and the Office of Marketing and Public Information. The timeline is as follows:

Event	Time	Day	Decision
Inclement weather occurs during regular work/class day	3:30 PM	Day of inclement weather	Cancel classes/events after 5 PM
Overnight inclement weather expected	8 PM	Day before inclement weather	Close campus or delay opening
Delay called the day before but change to closure due to the extent of weather impact	6:15 AM	Day of delay	Close campus
No cancellation or delay decision made the night before	5:30 AM	Day after no decision made the night before	Close campus or delay opening

Delay/closure times are as follows:

- MWF class day: Delay to either 10 AM or 11 AM; all classes prior to opening do not meet.
- TuTh class day: Delay to 11 AM; all classes prior to opening do not meet
- Saturday or Sunday: Delay to either 10 AM or 11 AM; classes may start after campus is open.

Activity	Recommendation
Face-to-face or hybrid courses	Indicate in a syllabus statement whether the course will shift to fully online in inclement weather. A shift to online is not required, but is permitted as long as you describe your inclement weather practices in class and in your syllabus.
Online courses	Fully online courses may continue as scheduled but should communicate course practices in syllabus statements and news items on D2L.
Graded assessments	If assessment deadlines coincide with the closure dates, Academic Affairs recommends delaying the deadline until after the campus reopens. A syllabus statement should state if deadlines will stand during closure.

NO CLASS IF CLASSES ARE CANCELLED

You will still be responsible for all course materials even the ones not covered due to weather

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the [Midwestern State University MSU Catalog](#)

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

AI-Policy

We recognize that there are a variety of AI programs available to assist writers. AI programs are not a replacement for human creativity, originality, and critical thinking. Writing is a craft that you must develop over time to develop your own individual voice as a writer. However, within limited circumstances, and with proper attribution, AI programs may be used as a tool.

Open	Course Schedule -Activities/Assignments/Exams	Closed
1/21/2026	Lesson 1 - American Popular Music in the Nineteenth Century	3/1/2026
1/21/2026	Lesson 2 - Tin Pan Alley and Ragtime	3/1/2026
1/21/2026	Lesson 3 - Rural Blues and Urban Blues	3/1/2026
1/21/2026	Lesson 4 - Dixieland	3/1/2026
1/21/2026	Lesson 5 - Swing and Big Bands	3/1/2026
1/21/2026	Lesson 6 – Broadway and the Development of the American Musical	3/1/2026
1/21/2026	Lesson 7 - Hillbilly and Country and Western Music	3/1/2026
1/21/2026	Lesson 17 - Bluegrass	3/1/2026
1/21/2026	Written Assignment 01	3/1/2026
1/21/2026	Lesson 8 - Traditional Pop in the 1940s and 1950s	3/1/2026
1/21/2026	Lesson 9 - Doo-Wop and Rhythm and Blues	3/1/2026
1/21/2026	Lesson 10 - Early Rock and Roll	3/1/2026
1/21/2026	Lesson 11 - Rockabilly	3/1/2026
1/21/2026	Lesson 12 - Teen-Styled Rock Music in the Early 1960s	3/1/2026
1/21/2026	Lesson 13 - The Record Producer and the Rise of Surf Rock	3/1/2026
1/21/2026	Lesson 14 - Soul	3/1/2026
1/21/2026	Lesson 15 - The British Invasion	3/1/2026
1/21/2026	Lesson 16 - American Reactions to the British Invasion	3/1/2026
1/21/2026	Written Assignment 02	3/1/2026
1/21/2026	Lesson 18 - Folk and Folk Rock	3/1/2026
1/21/2026	Lesson 19 - Psychedelic Rock	3/1/2026
3/1/2026	Lesson 20 – Midterm Exam	3/7/2026
3/2/2026	Lesson 21 - Country Rock and Southern Rock + Lesson 24 - Country Music Goes Mainstream	5/6/2026
3/2/2026	Lesson 22 - From Soul to Funk + Lesson 23 – Funk	5/6/2026
3/2/2026	Lesson 25 - Hard Rock and Heavy Metal	5/6/2026
3/2/2026	Lesson 30 - Heavy Metal in the 1980s	5/6/2026
3/2/2026	Lesson 29 - MTV	5/6/2026
3/2/2026	Lesson 31 - Hip-Hop's Roots and Origins	5/6/2026
3/2/2026	Lesson 32 - Hip-Hop Comes of Age	5/6/2026
3/2/2026	Lesson 35 - Hip-Hop in the 1990s	5/6/2026
3/2/2026	Lesson 33 - The Rise of Alternative Rock	5/6/2026
3/2/2026	Lesson 34 - Alternative and Metal in the 1990s + Written Assignment-03	5/6/2026
3/2/2026	Lesson 36 – Hybrids and Genres Without Definition	5/6/2026
3/2/2026	Lesson 37 - Country Music in the 1980s and 1990s	5/6/2026
3/2/2026	Lesson 38 - Popular Music and Controversy After 9/11	5/6/2026
3/2/2026	Lesson 39 – Music Creation and Distribution in the 21 st century	5/6/2026
3/2/2026	Lesson 42 – 20 th Century Music Still Popular in the 21 st Part I	5/6/2026
3/2/2026	Lesson 43 – 20 th Century Music Still Popular in the 21 st Part II	5/6/2026
3/2/2026	Lesson 44 – 20 th Century New Music Categories in the 21 st Century: Part 1	5/6/2026
3/2/2026	Lesson 45 – 20 th Century New Music Categories in the 21 st Century: Part 1	5/6/2026
3/2/2026	Written Assignment-04	5/6/2026
3/2/2026	Research Project Presentations	5/6/2026
5/7/2026	FINAL	5/11/2026