

**Popular Music in America**  
**Spring 2021**  
MUH 3025, E-Learning in Canvas  
Sections REG1 (17434), UFO1 (17435)  
Prerequisites: None

**Instructor: Jason Mullen [jasonmullen@ufl.edu](mailto:jasonmullen@ufl.edu)**

Office Hours: Online office hours via Zoom will be conducted by appointment.

### **Course Description**

This course explores popular music in the United States including its history, styles, composers, artists, and genres. In this course, students will examine the characteristics of popular music, develop listening skills, identify key musical features, and study the cultural and historical context of American popular music.

### **Course Objectives**

Within this course, students will achieve the following goals:

- Identify and recognize American popular musical styles, genres, performers, and composers
- Develop music listening skills
- Develop critical thinking skills in relation to American popular music in its social environment
- Draw connections between the political, historical, cultural, economic, and social issues with the development of popular music by Americans
- Investigate and analyze how race and oppression factored into the development and dissemination of American popular music
- Write scholarly essays with the correct grammar and formatting

### **Course Structure**

The course is organized around a series of modules that explore the place of music in relation to social and political forces in American history and popular culture. There is no expectation of previous musical or music theory study for this course. Each week will have a set of modules, accessible through e-Learning (Canvas). These modules will include instructions on readings in the textbook, listening examples, links to online discussions, PDFs, lecture videos, and weekly quizzes. **Deadlines are clearly posted in the Canvas calendar and on each assignment and late work will be accepted.**

### **Readings**

**Required Text** (*and see below for required listening*)

Larry Starr and Christopher Waterman, eds., *American Popular Music: From Minstrelsy to MP3*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018. ISBN: 9780190632991

The **fifth edition** contains new material and a completely re-written chapter and is therefore the required edition. A previous edition will not be sufficient. The book is available in the UF Bookstore or online (use express shipping). Not having the required

text and music downloads in hand will not be an acceptable reason for an extension on the first week's deadlines. The book is available for purchase in the UF Bookstore, online, or as an eBook through Oxford University Press (more about that below). Again, you should purchase the 5th Edition. If you purchase a physical copy through the publisher's site, you will receive 20% off. Follow this link (you might need to copy and paste it): <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/american-popular-music-9780190632991?cc=us&lang=en> (The discount should already be applied, but if needed use the code **MULLEN2021**.)

There is also an **eBook Version** available with the text and listening examples through the Oxford University Press Learning Cloud Dashboard. This might be a good option for a number of reasons: There is a 14-day trial period, you will have electronic access to the text immediately after purchase, as well it is a contactless method of delivery. You can do this by self-enrolling with Oxford University Press by following the link below. Once in the system, click on "Interactive eBook" and then follow the prompts to explore purchasing options: <https://oup.instructure.com/enroll/K6FBGE>

### ***Listening Examples***

As I mentioned above, you **MUST** purchase the fifth edition of the text in order to receive the access code for the downloadable audio examples or purchase access to the eBook version. Not having the audio examples will create a severe detriment on your ability to fully assimilate the material being discussed. You are welcome to access the songs through YouTube or Spotify as well, but the best way to secure listening to the full examples is through Oxford University Press and their access code/eBook via the 5th edition.

**You can access the musical examples via the Oxford University Press (OUP) Dashboard:** <https://oup.instructure.com/enroll/K6FBGE>

Because music-listening is an important part of our class, it is important to do so attentively, or critically. I recommend listening to each example more than once to fully integrate the musical aspects in relation to the text. You will be assessed on the listening examples, so you must integrate the music along with the explanations in the text of each required song.

### ***Discussion Posts (25%)***

In each weekly module, students are expected to post to the discussion board short (250-350 words) essay-type responses to weekly questions, which I will post on the board. The questions will be based on the readings, listening examples, and/or lectures. **If you include citations, use the proper format, for example: (Starr, 21).** Responses will be graded on a 10-point scale.

**DISCUSSION POSTS ARE DUE EACH THURSDAY BY 11:59 P.M.**

**In addition, you must post a reply to at least TWO of your classmates' discussion posts. These should be at least three lines in length and are due on the following Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Failure to submit TWO response posts will automatically lose TWO points out of ten for the assignment as a whole.**

### ***Substantive Response Posts***

This course relies heavily on your participation and contributions to the discussion board. In addition to observing etiquette guidelines, the following practices will help you earn the best grade possible and support the learning community.

- A substantive comment is one that provides something in addition to the initial post or previous comments.
- Posting a question that prompts clarification or leads the discussion deeper into the topic would be considered substantive.
- Posts that are only "I agree" are not substantive.

### ***Weekly Quizzes (30%)***

Quizzes questions will be drawn from the readings, musical examples, and the lecture videos. They must be completed by the posted deadline. The quizzes vary in length and include both multiple choice and essay-type responses. Failure to complete the quiz by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday will result in a ZERO on the quiz.

**QUIZZES ARE DUE ON SUNDAY BY 11:59 P.M. OF EACH WEEK.**

**Answers to quizzes are available on the FOLLOWING THURSDAY-SUNDAY.**

### ***Mid-Term Exam (10%)***

The mid-term will be a combination of multiple choice, fill in the blanks, and short essay questions. It will cover all material, including listening examples, from the first half of the semester.

### ***Final Project (15%)***

See the instructions within Canvas for a complete description.

The final project will consist of either a paper, Power Point presentation, or CD compilation.

You **MUST** provide a bibliography of at least **THREE scholarly sources** (books or articles). **NO WEBSITES. You CANNOT use the textbook or the lectures as sources** - I want you to provide NEW information, not just a condensed version of what we've learned in class. Also, no more than 15% of your paper/project should be quoted material. Again, it is supposed to be your research in your own words. You also need a title, and if you write a paper remember to double-space and provide citations. **ALL submissions will be scanned through Turnitin - so make sure that you provide citations for ALL material that is not your own.**

### ***Final Exam (20%)***

The final exam will consist of essay questions only. It will cover all the material from the entire semester.

### ***Supplemental Material***

While not required, I highly recommend that you watch the films in the “Supplemental Material” section of some of the modules. These films will greatly enhance your learning experience.

<b>Course Schedule</b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>% of Final Grade</u></b>
Discussion Posts	Thursdays, 11:59 p.m.	25%
Response Posts	Sundays, 11:59 p.m. (included in Discussion Posts grade)	
Module Quizzes	Sundays, 11:59 p.m.	30%
Midterm Exam	Wednesday, Mar. 3rd	10%
Final Project	Tuesday, April 6th	15%
Final Exam	Wednesday, Apr. 28th	20%

### **Communication**

I will respond to student emails in a timely manner, Monday-Friday, during business hours. Emails sent during the weekend will be replied to on Monday. You can contact me through the Canvas Inbox Message system or email me at [jasonmullen@ufl.edu](mailto:jasonmullen@ufl.edu).

### **Late Work**

Because this is an online class, late work will not be accepted. So please, be diligent about the due dates and times. Thanks!!

### **Grading**

Assignments will be evaluated with a grading rubric. Comments will be made from the instructor or teaching assistant. Click on the rubric icon to open the rubric to view your grade and comments. Since this is an online class a large amount of learning and interactions happened through these comments. Please take note of them.

Grading policies follow the policies laid out by UF. To understand how UF assigns grade points see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>. I use a standard grading scale when assigning grades.

93-100 = A  
90-92 = A-  
87-89 = B+  
83-86 = B  
80-82 = B-  
77-79 = C+  
73-76 = C  
70-72 = C-  
67-69 = D+  
63-66 = D  
60-62 = D-

## **Office Hours**

For office hours, please contact me to arrange a meeting. I will hold virtual office hours via Zoom.

## **Technology**

If you experience a technical problem, please contact the e-Learning Help Desk first at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu). If it is an urgent problem, call them on the phone at (352) 392-4357. Take note of your Help Desk ticket number. Send me an email via the Canvas email system confirming that you have taken the advice of the Help Desk and provide me with your ticket number. If you have a computer malfunction, remember that there are computers available in the libraries across campus. Therefore, technology problems will not be an acceptable excuse for late or absent work. Also remember, you **MUST** be able to listen to the musical examples.

## **Accommodations for Disabilities**

Students who require specific accommodations for a disability should speak with me within the first two weeks of class to ensure these accommodations are met. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The office will provide documentation to the student who must provide this documentation to the instructor. Contact the Dean of Students Disability Resource Center here: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>. If this applies to you, please give me your DRC letter at the **beginning** of the semester so that I can accommodate your needs.

## **Academic Integrity**

According to UF's Student Conduct & Honor Code, plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

1. "Quoting oral or written materials including but not limited to those found on the internet, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution."
2. "Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student."

This can include friend's papers, sources on the internet, or other sources that you do not cite. Any student who is discovered plagiarizing will receive a ZERO for that assignment and he or she will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct for further actions. To provide a quotation, please use this example: "Quote" (Baker, 21). That is, the quotation followed by the author's last name and the page number or numbers accessed, all enclosed in parenthesis.

NOTE: **We do not allow Wikipedia as an academic source.** If information is used from Wikipedia rather than the assigned textbook, the student will receive a ZERO for that assignment. As stated on the UF Student Conduct & Honor Code website, unauthorized use of materials includes: "3. Any materials or resources which the faculty member has notified the student or the class are prohibited."

## Class Schedule

This schedule is tentative and subject to change. Any changes will be announced to the class via Canvas.

### Module 1: Chapter 1 “Themes and Streams of American Popular Music”

#### To Do

Read pg. 5-45  
Watch Lecture Video  
Listen: “Barbara Allen,  
“Coo Coo,”  
“Stagolee,”  
“La Negra”

Due Date	Assignments
<b>Thurs. Jan. 14</b>	Discussion Post #1
<b>Sun. Jan. 17</b>	Quiz #1
<b>Sun. Jan. 17</b>	Two (2) Response Posts
<b>Wed. Jan. 20</b>	Discussion Post Intro
<b>Wed. Jan. 20</b>	Syllabus Quiz

### Module 2: Chapter 2 “After the Ball’: Popular Music of the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries”

#### To Do

Read pg. 46-72  
Watch Lecture Video  
Listen: “After the Ball”

Due Date	Assignments
<b>Thurs. Jan. 21</b>	Discussion Post #2
<b>Sun. Jan. 24</b>	Quiz #2
<b>Sun. Jan. 24</b>	Two (2) Response Posts

### Module 3: Chapter 3 “Catching as the Small-Pox’: Social Dance and Jazz, 1917-1935”

#### To Do

Read pg. 73-104  
Watch Lecture Video  
Listen: “Tiger Rag,”  
“Dipper Mouth Blues,”

Due Date	Assignments
<b>Thurs. Jan. 28</b>	Discussion Post #3
<b>Sun. Jan. 31</b>	Quiz #3
<b>Sun. Jan. 24</b>	Two (2) Response Posts

### Module 4: Chapter 4 “I Got Rhythm’: The Golden Age of Tin Pan Alley Song, 1920s and 1930s”

#### To Do

Read pg. 105-124  
Watch Lecture Video  
Listen: “My Blue Heaven”  
“April Showers”

Due Date	Assignments
<b>Thurs. Feb. 4</b>	Discussion Post #4
<b>Sun. Feb. 7</b>	Quiz #4
<b>Sun. Feb. 7</b>	Two (2) Response Posts

### Module 5: Chapter 5 “St. Louis Blues’: Race Records and Hillbilly Music, 1920s and 1930s”

#### To Do

Read pg. 125-156  
Watch Lecture Video  
Listen:  
“St. Louis Blues”

Due Date	Assignments
<b>Thurs. Feb. 11</b>	Discussion Post #5
<b>Sun. Feb. 14</b>	Quiz #5
<b>Sun. Feb. 14</b>	Two (2) Response Posts

**Module 6: Chapter 6 “In The Mood’: The Swing Era, 1935-1945”**

**To Do**

Read pg. 157-201  
Watch Lecture Video  
Listen: “Wrappin’ It Up”

<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
<b>Thurs. Feb. 18</b>	Discussion Post #6
<b>Sun. Feb. 21</b>	Quiz #6
<b>Sun. Feb. 21</b>	Two (2) Response Posts

**Module 7: Chapter 7 “Choo Choo Ch’ Boogie’: The Postwar Era, 1946-1954”**

**To Do**

Read pg. 202-246  
Watch Lecture Video  
Listen: “Nancy (With the Laughing Face)”

<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
	<b>No Discussion Post</b>
<b>Sun. Feb. 28</b>	Quiz #7
<b>Wed. Mar. 3</b>	<b>MIDTERM</b>

**Module 8: Chapter 8 “Rock Around the Clock’: Rock ‘n’ Roll, 1954-1959”**

**To Do**

Read pg. 247-290  
Watch Lecture Video  
Listen: “Sh-Boom”  
“Long Tall Sally”

<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
<b>Thurs. Mar. 4</b>	Discussion Post #8
<b>Sun. Mar. 7</b>	Quiz #8
<b>Sun. Mar. 7</b>	Two (2) Response Posts

**Module 9: Chapter 9 “Good Vibrations’: American Pop and the British Invasion, 1960s”**

**To Do**

Read pg. 291-328  
Watch Lecture Video  
Listen: “Be My Baby”

<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
<b>Sun. Mar. 11</b>	Discussion Post #9
<b>Sun. Mar. 14</b>	Quiz #9
<b>Sun. Mar. 14</b>	Two (2) Response Posts

**Module 10: Chapter 10 “Blowin’ in the Wind’: Country, Soul, Urban Folk, and the Rise of Rock, 1960s”**

**To Do**

Read pg. 329-376  
Watch Lecture Video  
Listen: “You Send Me”

<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
<b>Thurs. Mar. 18</b>	Discussion Post #10
<b>Sun. Mar. 21</b>	Quiz #10
<b>Sun. Mar. 21</b>	Two (2) Response Posts

**Module 11: Chapter 11 “The 1970s: Rock Music, Disco, and the Popular Mainstream”**

**To Do**

Read pg. 377-418  
Watch Lecture Video  
Listen: “Bad Girls”

<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
<b>Thurs. Mar. 25</b>	Discussion Post #11
<b>Sun. Mar. 28</b>	Quiz #11
<b>Sun. Mar. 28</b>	Two (2) Response Posts

**Module 12: Chapter 12 “Outsiders’ Music: Progressive Country, Reggae, Salsa, Punk, Funk, and Rap, 1970s”**

**To Do**

Read pg. 419-459  
 Watch Lecture Video  
 Listen: “Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain”  
 “Pedro Navaja”

<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
<b>Thurs. Apr. 1</b>	Discussion Post #12
<b>Sun. Apr. 4</b>	Quiz #12
<b>Sun. Apr. 4</b>	Two (2) Response Posts
<b>Tue. Apr. 6</b>	<b>FINAL PROJECT DUE</b>

**Module 13: Chapter 13 “The 1980s: Digital Technology, MTV, and the Popular Mainstream”**

**To Do**

Read pg. 460-502  
 Watch Lecture Video  
 Listen: “Lady”

<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
<b>Thurs. Apr. 8</b>	Discussion Post #13
<b>Sun. Apr. 11</b>	Quiz #13
<b>Sun. Apr. 11</b>	Two (2) Response Posts

**Module 14: Chapter 14 “Smells Like Teen Spirit’: Hip-Hop, Alternative Music, and the Entertainment Business”**

**To Do**

Read pg. 503-554  
 Watch Lecture Video  
 Listen: “Walk This Way”  
 “Night of the Living Baseheads”

<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
<b>Thurs. Apr. 15</b>	Discussion Post #14
<b>Sun. Apr. 18</b>	Quiz #14
<b>Sun. Apr. 18</b>	Two (2) Response Posts

**Module 15: The Internet Age, 2000-**

**To Do**

Read pg. 555-600  
 Listen: “Bodysnatchers”

<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
<b>Thurs. Apr. 22</b>	Discussion Post #15
<b>Wed. Apr. 28</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>