

Popular Music in America

Fall 2021

MUH 3025, E-Learning in Canvas

Prerequisites: None

Instructor: Jason Mullen 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
- Understand issues of race, gender, class and cultural identity that have shaped popular music in America

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. Please be on time with your assignments.**

Readings

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

Larry Starr and Christopher Waterman, eds., *American Popular Music: From Minstrelsy to MP3*, 5th 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. 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:

<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, and you will have electronic access to the text immediately after purchase. 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/PJACTT>

Listening Examples

As I mentioned above, you should 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 make it difficult 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 here: <https://oup.instructure.com/enroll/PJACTT>

Because music-listening is an integral part of our class, it is important to do so attentively. I recommend listening fully to each example to integrate the musical aspects in relation to the text. There will be listening examples in the quiz, so be prepared to incorporate 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 a short (250-350 words) essay-type responses to weekly questions, which I will post on the board. The prompts will be based on the readings, listening examples, and/or lectures. 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 you 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 (20%)

The quizzes (Modules 1-7) will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions and will be timed. The questions will be drawn from the readings, musical examples, and lecture videos. This is our time to read the text closely for details and lay the foundation for the development of popular music in America.

Creative Assignments (20%)

After the midterm we will move to the Creative Assignments portion (Modules 8-14). This will consist of two 500-word reflections, two listening guides, two annotated mixtapes, and a quotes and sources assignment in regard to your final essay (more information and directions will be given on the Creative Assignments throughout the semester). These assignments will be an opportunity for you to take a self-guided direction while critically engaging with the text and course materials. I realize everyone learns in different ways of which these varied assignment types help to support.

Quizzes and Creative Assignments are due on SUNDAY BY 11:59 P.M. of each week. Quizzes and Creative Assignments must be completed by the posted deadline. Failure to complete the quiz or creative assignments by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday will result in a -10% deduction per week.

Mid-Term Exam (15%)

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

Final Essay (20%).

The final essay will consist of a 1000-word reflection paper asking: Where has popular music in America been, and where is it going? I will ask you to choose a theme—a style, genre, or situation—for your essay. You will be asked to provide at least three salient quotations from the textbook and site three scholarly sources (books or articles accessed through the UF library). More information will be posted closer to the due date.

Supplemental Material

While not required, this course is populated with “Supplemental Material” within each module. These materials might be helpful and often enhance your learning experience.

<u>Course Schedule</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>% of Final Grade</u>
Discussion Posts	Thursdays, 11:59 p.m.	25%
Response Posts	Sundays, 11:59 p.m. (included in Discussion Posts grade)	
Quizzes	Sundays, 11:59 p.m.	20%
Creative Assig.	Sundays, 11:59 p.m.	20%
Midterm Exam	Monday, Oct. 18th	15%
Final Essay	Friday, Dec 10th	20%

Communication

I will respond to 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.

Late Work

Generally late work will not be accepted. Please, be diligent about the due dates and times and be in touch well in advance if you have extenuating circumstances.

Grading

Comments will be made from the instructor or teaching assistant. 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. Please feel free to be in touch to set up a time to meet!

Technology

If you experience a technical problem, please contact the e-Learning Help Desk first at 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. 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.

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
Thurs. Aug. 26	Discussion Post #1
Sun. Aug. 29	Quiz #1
Sun. Aug. 29	Two (2) Response Posts
Tue. Aug. 31	Discussion Post Intro
Mon. Aug. 30	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
Thurs. Sep. 2	Discussion Post #2
Sun. Sep. 5	Quiz #2
Sun. Sep. 5	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
Thurs. Sep. 9	Discussion Post #3
Sun. Sep. 12	Quiz #3
Sun. Sep. 12	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
Thurs. Sep. 16	Discussion Post #4
Sun. Sep. 19	Quiz #4
Sun. Sep. 19	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
Thurs. Sep. 23	Discussion Post #5
Sun. Sep. 26	Quiz #5
Sun. Sep. 26	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”

Due Date	Assignments
Thurs. Sep. 30	Discussion Post #6
Sun. Oct. 3	Quiz #6
Sun. Oct. 3	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)”

Due Date	Assignments
Oct. 7	Midsem. Feedback
Oct. 10	Quiz #7
Mon. Oct. 18	MIDTERM

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”

Due Date	Assignments
Thurs. Oct. 14	Discussion Post #8
Sun. Oct. 17	500-Word Reflection #1
Sun. Oct. 17	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”

Due Date	Assignments
Oct. 21	Discussion Post #9
Sun. Oct. 24	Listening Guide #1
Sun. Oct. 24	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”

Due Date	Assignments
Thurs. Oct. 28	Discussion Post #10
Sun. Oct. 31	Annotated Mixtape #1
Sun. Oct. 31	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”

Due Date	Assignments
Thurs. Nov. 4	Discussion Post #11
Sun. Nov. 7	500-Word Reflection #2
Sun. Nov. 7	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”

Due Date	Assignments
Thurs. Nov. 11	Discussion Post #12
Sun. Nov. 14	Listening Guide #2
Sun. Nov. 14	Two (2) Response Post

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

To Do

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

Due Date	Assignments
Thurs. Nov. 18	Discussion Post #13
Sun. Nov. 21	Annotated Mixtape #2
Sun. Nov. 21	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”

Due Date	Assignments
Sat. Nov. 27	Discussion Post #14
Tues. Nov. 30	Three Quotes/Sources
Tues. Nov. 30	Two (2) Response Posts

Module 15: The Internet Age, 2000-

To Do

Read pg. 555-600
 Listen: “Bodysnatchers”

Due Date	Assignments
Sat. Dec. 4	Discussion Post #15
Fri. Dec. 10	Final Essay