

History of American Popular Music

MUS.132.I60

Winter 2021

Number of Credits: 3

Location: Online

Days Class Meets: n/a

Instructor: Brian Ketner

Meeting Times: n/a

Contact Email: ketnerbrianm@jccmi.edu

Online Procedures

Class will be meeting in an online format.

Here is how I envision our class procedure:

- 1. Class activities will go live on Mondays and Wednesdays at 9:00am**
 - Videos, Discussions, Tasks, and Assignments will become available.
- 2. Watch Video Lessons and Participate in Topic Discussion Forums**
 - Each class, there will be video lectures and discussion forums based on that class's topics.
 - Discussion forums will be open from Monday at 9:00am until Thursday at 11:59pm.
 - Every student is expected to participate in the discussion forums. This is how I count attendance.
- 3. Complete Assigned "Tasks"**
 - For each class/topic, there will be one or two "Tasks" assigned. Tasks are small interactive activities based on the lesson topics. Example Tasks may include finding certain types of music videos or recordings, or identifying examples of musical traits, or likewise.
 - Tasks will be available to complete until 11:59pm of the next day.
(Mon 9am - Tue 11:59pm, and Wed 9am - Thu 11:59pm)
 - Tasks count toward your Participation grade
- 4. Check for Assignments and Listening Journals**
 - Assignments and Listening Journals will be posted and submitted online. Assignments and Journals are due by 11:59pm on the given dates (see calendar).
 - See "Listening Journal Guidelines" on JetNet for more details.
- 5. Reading:** Be prepared to do a lot of reading!
For each lesson you are to read the associated Units/chapters in the textbook.
My recommended approach:
 - BEFORE watching the lesson video, EITHER preview the chapter topics OR read them completely.
 - AFTER watching the lesson video, EITHER read the chapters OR review the chapter topics (whichever one you didn't do first).
- 6. Don't forget your Paper!**
 - Papers will be submitted online by the due date at 11:59pm.
 - See "Paper Guidelines" on JetNet for more details.

Course Description

Explore the development of popular music in America with focus on the musical, social, and economic influences of commercial music in a historical context.

Course Goals

To gain an appreciation and understanding of the role of American popular music. To recognize specific musical styles, genres, and performers, and to understand the evolution of musical elements and styles of American popular music. To increase understanding of American cultural history by studying the influence of popular music.

Textbook

- *Popular Music in America: The Beat Goes On*, 5th Edition, Michael Campbell.

Text Book Zero! This text is available in a digital format. Please see the links posted on our class Jet Net site. This text is available to rent or purchase in digital format through the JC Bookstore.

Expectations

- Students are expected to check in on JetNet once the class materials have activated, watch the video lessons, contribute to the week's forum discussion, and complete the assigned tasks.
- Assignments will not be accepted past the given due dates except in case of extenuating circumstances. (Please email the instructor ahead of time with any concerns)
- Students are expected to participate in all discussions, stay caught up on the reading, watch all assigned videos, and complete all assignments.

Assignments

- **Tasks (participation):** Each lesson will include one or two Task to be completed by 11:59pm the following day.
- **Assignments:** There will be four multiple-choice assignments on JetNet, each covering various units in the textbook, to be answered based on the reading.
- **Listening Journal:** Along with each assignment, students will select 4 music examples to listen to and write out their observations. Observations should be based on topics discussed in class.
- **Paper:** Students will write a paper about a specific band or musical artist of their choosing. The paper will discuss the development of their career, the styles/genres of music they play, and other ideas related to the themes discussed in class. Students may choose a band/artist discussed in the book, or another band/artist who falls under the category of American popular music.
- ***** Note: Plagiarism (copying material directly from sources) will not be tolerated and will result in a zero on your paper. Please use your own thoughts.*****

Grading Scale

GPA	GRADE RANGE	GRADING
4.0	94-100%	Assignments: 30%
3.5	89-93%	Journals: 30%
3.0	84-88%	Paper: 20%
2.5	78-83%	Participation: 20%
2.0	72-77%	
1.5	66-71%	
1.0	60-65%	
0.5	55-59%	
0.0	0-54%	

Calendar

Calendar timelines and assignments are an approximation and could be changed.

WEEK #	DATES (M/W)	READING	ASSIGNMENTS
1	3/15, 3/17	Units 1-3	
2	3/22, 3/24	Units 5-6	Assignment 1 and Journal 1 (Due Friday 3/26)
3	3/29, 3/31	Units 7-10	
4	4/5, 4/7	Unit 11-12	Assignment 2 and Journal 2 (Due Fri 4/9)
5	4/12, 4/14	Unit 12-13	
6	4/19, 4/21	Units 14-16	Assignment 3 and Journal 3 (Due Fri 4/23) Final Paper (Due Sun 4/25)
7	4/26, 4/28	Units 17-20	Assignment 4 and Journal 4 (Due Fri 4/30)