

History of American Popular Music

MUS.132.I60

Fall 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 Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00am**
 - Pre-recorded 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.
 - 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 3rd day.
(Tue 9am - Thu 11:59pm, and Thu 9am - Sat 11:59pm)
- 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**
 - For each lesson students are expected 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 Final 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.

This text is available in a digital format. Please see the links posted on our class JetNet site.

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 3rd 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 (T/R)	READING	ASSIGNMENTS
1	10/26, 10/28	Units 1-3	
2	11/2, 11/4	Units 4-6	Assignment 1 and Journal 1 (Due Saturday 11/6)
3	11/9, 11/11	Units 7-10	
4	11/16, 11/18	Unit 11-12	Assignment 2 and Journal 2 (Due Sat 11/20)
5	11/22	Unit 12	
6	11/30, 12/2	Units 13-15	Assignment 3 and Journal 3 (Due Sat 12/4)
7	12/7, 12/9	Units 16-18	Final Paper (Due Sun 12/12)
8	12/14	Units 19-20	Assignment 4 and Journal 4 (Due Sat 12/18)