

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE  
FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

MAR 01 2000

HISTORY OF POPULAR MUSIC  
DD1021SS A3 3(3-0-0) Win 2000

**Instructor:** Geoffrey Whittall  
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History of Popular Music serves as an introduction to a number of North American popular music styles. This course focuses on popular music from the beginning of this century to the present day, with an emphasis on the evolution of the various musical styles and the placement of these styles in their social contexts. Both assigned readings and critical listening are important aspects of the course, and exams and quizzes will reflect material from readings and recordings. Recordings are available for you in the library or in my office. They will be related to, and reflect, information covered in the readings. In addition to the required text, additional readings will occasionally be assigned. Those readings will be put on reserve in the library. Topics covered in the course may include the developments in and relationships between blues, jazz, gospel, country, folk, musicals, vaudeville, and rock. When you have completed this course, you should have a good perspective of the history and evolution of popular music in North America during this century.

**Prerequisite:** This is an introductory course that requires no previous knowledge of music and no prerequisite courses.

<b>Evaluation:</b>	Paper One	40%
	Paper Two	40%
	Final examination	20%

**Term Project:** You will demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of aspects of the course through research projects resulting in the creation of two formal academic papers. They must be a minimum of 2000 words in length (roughly 8 pages of double-spaced 12 point Times font), and must be typed. Possible research topics may include any aspect of popular music that interests you, with the exception of biographical portrayal of artists. Be aware: you will have to order through inter-library loans some of the sources you may need for your papers. Do not take your time ordering your sources, or you will find writing your paper extremely difficult.

**Required Text:**

Joyner, David Lee. American Popular Music.  
Madison: WCB Brown and Benchmark, 1993.

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**Progression Policy:** It is a Fine Arts Department guideline that students will lose 10% a calendar day for submitting projects after the due date. After ten days, a grade of zero (0%) will be recorded.

**Other Readings will be taken from:**

Gridley, Mark C. 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Jazz Styles: History and Analysis. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall

Malone, Bill C. Country Music U.S.A. revised and enlarged ed. Austin: University of Texas Press.

Palmer, Robert. 1995. Rock And Roll: An Unruly History. New York: Harmony.

**Schedule:**

Unit One      Tin Pan Alley and the Theater  
Reading:      Joyner: Chapters 1 and 2

Unit Two      The African-American Tradition  
                  Chapters 3 —> 9  
                  Gridley: Chapters 4-8: Origins of Jazz to the Count Basie

**Bands**

Unit Three    Country Music and the Anglo-American Tradition  
Reading:      Joyner: Chapters 10 —> 14  
                  Malone: Chapters 1-6: The Folk Background to The  
                  Cowboy Image

Unit Four    Rock and Related Musics  
Readings:     Joyner Chapters 15 —> 21  
                  Palmer Chapters 1-9  
                  Additional useful Resource: 6 videos in the library dealing with the  
                  history of rock and roll, to which the Palmer book is a companion.