



DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2020

MU1021 (A2): Popular Music in the Twentieth Century – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

INSTRUCTOR: Geoffrey Whittall **PHONE:** 780-539-2823
OFFICE: L-119 **E-MAIL:** gwhittall@gprc.ab.ca
OFFICE HOURS: As posted on my office door and by appointment

FALL 2020 DELIVERY: Remote Delivery. This course is delivered remotely. There are no expected face-to-face or onsite requirements. Students must have a computer with a webcam and reliable internet connection. Technological support is available through helpdesk@gprc.ab.ca. If deemed appropriate, exams may take place onsite.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This course explores major movements in North American popular music. Topics include blues, jazz, hillbilly, country, musical theatre, folk, and rock music.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: No prerequisite, no music knowledge or skill required.

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

- *American Popular Music*, 3rd Edition (2008), by David Lee Joyner (McGraw Hill).
- **MYCLASS:** You will need to access our MYCLASS page at <https://myclass.gprc.ab.ca> where you will be able to access a variety of necessary resources.
- **WEBSITE:** <http://people.gprc.ab.ca/gwhittall>

COURSE OBJECTIVES: MU1021 is an introduction to a number of North American popular music styles. This course focuses on popular music from the late nineteenth 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. In addition to the required text, additional readings may occasionally be assigned. When you have completed this course, you should have a good perspective of the history and evolution of popular music in North America over the past century.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the ways popular music has developed and the people and forces who drove those developments. Additionally, students will be able to aurally identify the aesthetic and stylistic characteristics of many genres of popular music.

TRANSFERABILITY: Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for specific course transfer information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca> or use the direct course search at <http://alis.alberta.ca/ps/tsp/ta/tbi/onlinesearch.html?SearchMode=S&step=2>

Students have the final responsibility for ensuring the transferability of courses taken to Alberta Colleges and Universities.

EVALUATIONS:

Student grades will be assigned by the following weighting:

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Midterm Exam | 20% |
| Final Exam: | 30% |
| Unit Quizzes: | 30% |
| Term Paper: | 20% |

You will demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of an aspect of the course through a research project resulting in the creation of a formal academic paper. A proposal of your intended project will be due by the start of class on **September 29**, and your finished paper will be due by the start of class on **November 26**. Late term papers will be assessed a penalty of 10% each calendar day until the paper is submitted.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than a C-**.

| Alpha Grade | 4-point Equivalent | Percentage Guidelines | | Alpha Grade | 4-point Equivalent | Percentage Guidelines |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| A+ | 4.0 | 90-100 | | C+ | 2.3 | 67-69 |
| A | 4.0 | 85-89 | | C | 2.0 | 63-66 |
| A- | 3.7 | 80-84 | | C- | 1.7 | 60-62 |
| B+ | 3.3 | 77-79 | | D+ | 1.3 | 55-59 |
| B | 3.0 | 73-76 | | D | 1.0 | 50-54 |
| B- | 2.7 | 70-72 | | F | 0.0 | 00-49 |

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

The midterm exam will likely occur in late February. The final exam will occur during the examination period at the end of the semester.

Unit 1: Tin Pan Alley, Musical Theatre. Chapters 1-2. **Quiz.**

Unit 2: African American Roots (Songs, Ragtime, Blues). Chapters 3-5. **Quiz.**

Unit 3: Jazz. Chapters 6-9. **Midterm exam.**

Unit 4: Hillbilly and Country. Chapters 10-14. **Quiz.**

Unit 5: Rock and associated genres. Chapters 15-16. **Quiz.** Chapters 17-24. **Final Exam.**

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Attendance at all class sessions is highly recommended.
- More than 20% absenteeism may constitute a failure except for medical or extenuating circumstances in which case a doctor's letter may be required.
- Students will receive a warning 'Notice Of Absenteeism' at 15% absenteeism.
- After 20% absenteeism, you may be required to withdraw from the course.
- *Refer to Student Conduct, Attendance, on page 46 of the College Calendar. You should become familiar with pages 37-48 of the GPRC 2020-2021 Calendar, along with College policies about academics and student responsibilities.*

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the section on Plagiarism and Cheating in the College policy titled Student Misconduct: Academic and Non-Academic at (<https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/fetch.php?ID=68>). Instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments. **Instructors also reserve the right to ban the use of any form of electronics (cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, tablets, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during class and during exams.**

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>