

Music 12 American Popular Music - Spring 2005

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Please note: I do not check my CR voice mail for messages.
It is OK to call me at home, but it's not necessary to inform me
that you will be absent (see below for policy on attendance).

A basic idea of what is involved in this course

This is a general humanities course. Prior knowledge of music or music history is not required. We will be using music terminology, however, and the first several sessions of the class will establish the terms and vocabulary you will be expected to know and use. Unlike many such courses, I do not begin with the start of sound recording, but rather trace the roots and sources of popular music to the 19th Century and earlier. Part of my goal is to trace the development of rock, and often the course will get no farther than the mid-1960's.

Attendance and class participation are valued in this class, and a consideration in the final grade, counting 10 possible points. Over the course of the term, I will learn your names and observe your contribution to the class. As an aid to this process, roll will be taken at some point during each session (not necessarily at the beginning). If you arrive after your name is called, please see me afterward to make sure your presence was noted. You do not need to notify me if you will be absent, but material covered in class will not be repeated.

There are **no make-up exams** for quizzes or the final – if you miss a quiz, you simply won't get that 5% credit – but it is possible that we will not make it through all 5 quizzes. In that event, you will get full credit for quizzes not given.

Quizzes will be announced at the class session immediately prior to the quiz. At that session, there will be a brief review of the quiz content. Quizzes will be for 45 minutes, usually starting ½ hour into the session. You must be present at the beginning of class to take the quiz, and you will be responsible for material covered in the lecture, even though that material will not be tested until the following quiz. If you have learning disability or any condition that negatively impacts your ability to take regular quizzes, see me to arrange to take tests under special conditions, e.g., at the **Academic Support Center**

Note: For each quiz, you may prepare and bring a single 8½X11 page of handwritten notes. For the Final Exam, you may bring all notes for previous quizzes, as well as all your quiz answer sheets, AND a sheet covering anything discussed since the last quiz.

Test and assignment guidelines and weights for grades

Quiz % of grade

- 1 5% Essentials of music for analysis and review
- 2 5% Popular song and musical theater: 1600-1900
- 3 5% Popular song and musical theater: 1900-1950
- 4 5% The African-American tradition: spiritual, holler, blues, ragtime, early jazz, big bands
- 5 5% The Anglo-American tradition: old-time, hillbilly, honky-tonk, country, Nashville

Papers % of grade

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| 10% | A live performance review* (<i>must be during Spring term</i>) | <u>Due</u>
<u>April</u>
<u>28</u> |
| 10% | A CD review (<i>must be previously unfamiliar to you</i>) | <u>Due</u>
<u>May 3</u> |
| 15% | Term Paper (<i>Topic should be discussed first with instructor</i>) | <u>Due</u>
<u>May</u>
<u>10</u> |

*A useful guide to live, inexpensive folk, blues, and bluegrass performances is at <calendar@humboldtfolklife.org>

For directions on how to write papers, and examples of successful ones, see Page x.

Papers turned in after the due date will have 10% deducted for each class meeting they are late. No papers will be accepted after the May 13 class meeting. Early papers are welcome.

Final Exam

- 30% will cover material from all 6 above quizzes, plus the folk revival, 50s pop, rhythm & blues, rockabilly, rock & roll, Motown, the 60s, and rock

Participatory Credit

- 10% based on attendance, participation, and involvement in the course

Demeanor in the classroom

This course covers over two centuries of music in myriad styles. At best, it is difficult to include everything. Distractions make it impossible. Talking in class is a major distraction, whether during lectures or listening. Please do not carry on a conversation, or you and your neighbor will be considered disruptive under the CR Student Code of Conduct. If your ideas are worthwhile, they are worth discussing in front of the class: raise your hand and you will be called on at the next opportunity, for either questions or comments. However, both questions and comments, in the appropriate context, are not only acceptable, but welcome. Many elements of this course may be new to you, even controversial: your interaction is a useful part of the complete experience, and indeed is counted in your final grade.