



DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS

COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2021

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

Grande Prairie Regional College respectfully acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 8 territory, the traditional homeland and gathering place for many diverse Indigenous peoples. We are honoured to be on the ancestral lands of the Cree, Dene/Beaver and Métis, whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work, learn, and live on this land.

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

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:

- **Required readings** are available on MYCLASS; these will include a mix of online documents and materials from the GPRC Learning Commons.
- **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>

DELIVERY MODE(S): Lecture. Note: GPRC reserves the right to change the course delivery.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: MU1021 is an introduction to a number of North American popular music genres and the history behind their developments. 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 will 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 explain ways in which popular music has developed and discuss the people and forces that 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 more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferralberta.ca>.

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

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 25**, and your finished paper will be due by the start of class on **November 25**. 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 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 October. The final exam will occur during the examination period at the end of the semester.

Unit 1: Minstrelsy and Tin Pan Alley. **Quiz.**

Unit 2: African American Roots and Onward (Songs, Ragtime, Blues, Race Records). **Quiz.**

Unit 3: Jazz. **Midterm exam.**

Unit 4: Hillbilly and Country Music. **Quiz.**

Unit 5: Rock and associated genres. **Quiz.**

Final Exam.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Attendance at all class sessions is highly recommended. *Refer to Student Conduct, Attendance, on pages 47-48 of the College Calendar.*
- 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 may receive a warning 'Notice Of Absenteeism' at 15% absenteeism.
- After 20% absenteeism, you may be required to withdraw from the course.
- You should become familiar with pages 38-49 of the *GPRC 2021-2022 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 Student Conduct section of the College Calendar at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies>

****Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.