



DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS
COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2021

MU1021 (A3): 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: By appointment

WINTER 2021 DELIVERY: Remote Delivery. This course is delivered remotely. There are no 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.

Note: GPRC reserves the right to change the course delivery.

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>

**** 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 **January 27**, and your finished paper will be due by the start of class on **March 24**. 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 may 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 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.