

## **American Music—MUS 1309 (001)**

### **Fall 2020**

**Professor:** Mary-Elizabeth Thompson, D.M.A.

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**Office:** FAB 202

**Phone:** (432) 837-8130

**Class Meetings:** Web-delivered

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 9:00-10:00 a.m.; Thursdays 2:00-3:00 p.m.; Fridays by appointment

#### **Course Description**

A general survey of various styles of music of the Americas, including but not limited to jazz, folk, rock, and contemporary music.

*\*This course is a new addition to the Language, Philosophy, and Culture core curriculum as of Fall 2020.*

#### **Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)**

No prior musical training is required for this course.

After completing this course students should be able to:

- 1) use basic terminology to describe musical elements including pitch, rhythm, melody, harmony, tempo, dynamics, timbre, texture, and form. (*Knowledge*)
- 2) demonstrate a broad knowledge of the creative work of the composers, performers, and teachers, as well as the music industry, of the areas and musical genres discussed. (*Skills*)
- 3) implement critical thinking skills in order to identify and discuss the roots of current popular music, world music, and trends. (*Attitudes or Dispositions*)
- 4) critique live musical performances using appropriate terminology to describe the performance, repertoire, and characteristics of the performer. (*Attitudes or Dispositions*)

#### **Major Assignments with Matched SLOs**

- Response assignments will be given throughout the semester in order to assess students' understanding of the material and reflect upon music listened to or films watched for an assignment. These assignments include, but are not limited to, Blackboard Discussion Board activities and short reflection papers. (*1,2,3,4*)
- Listening quizzes will be given where students will hear a short section of a piece studied and will be asked to identify the composer/title and answer some questions about the work.
- Graded work will include quizzes on musical terminology from the text and assignments that expand upon the material from the text, such as reading current articles about music and musicians. (*2,3,4*)
- One project will be assigned in which the students construct a set of lyrics that address a current political topic of choice and then will find an existing musical piece that parallels their choice. (*1,2,3*)
- The final video presentation will be on a composer, performer, composition, or genre of music (hip-hop, jazz, R&B, etc.) chosen by the student. Each student will present information about their topic with appropriate research and citations in a format of their choice, record their presentation, and submit it to the instructor. (PowerPoint, lecture,

etc.) (1,2,3)

### Required Materials

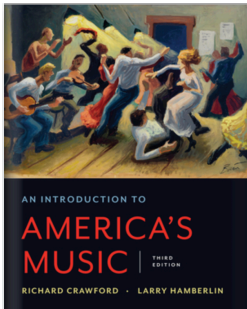
- Blackboard access and internet access (*these services provided on campus*)
- Textbook **with playlist access**
- All work should be typed, either using a word processing program, or better still, a cloud-based web application such as Blackboard, Google Docs, Office 365, etc.

### Textbook options

1. Hard copy: An Introduction to America's Music, **Third Edition**  
Authors: Richard Crawford, Larry Hamberlin  
ISBN-13: 978-0-393-69096-5
  - can be purchased online through Amazon or W.W. Norton Textbooks (wwnorton.com).

OR, *I highly recommend...*

2. eBook version of the above text, found at:  
<https://wwnorton.com/books/9780393668285>



### Class Attendance and Participation

Actively working in the course and completing assignments constitutes class participation, as does corresponding with the instructor via e-mail if you have difficulty with an assignment or technical problems.

If you are not actively participating and have not reached out to the instructor, you may be dropped from the course pending the University's Instructor Initiated Drop policy.

Late work will **not** be accepted *unless* accompanied by a written excuse such as a doctor's note, military orders, or official University excuse. Unless an emergency, these should be discussed with the instructor **before** the due date passes. Due to the work-at-your-own-pace nature of this course, you should not need an extension on any work due except for extreme cases, to be discussed with the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

### Grading Procedures

*Your final grade will be determined by the following formula:*

1. Response Assignments/Listening Quizzes – 30%
2. Graded Assignments—25%
3. Lyrics Project—15%
4. Video Presentation – 20%
5. Participation – 10%

### **Grading Scale**

A=90-100 B=80-89 C=70-79 D=60-69 F=below 60

**The instructor will provide detailed information and due dates for assignments, lyrics project, and the final presentation on a separate handout.**

### **Professional Communication Policy**

- All communication with me should be done either in person, by office phone, or through email.
- You are expected to check your email and the course Blackboard page on a **regular basis**.

### **SRSU Library Services**

The Sul Ross Library offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, [library.sulross.edu](http://library.sulross.edu). Off-campus access requires your LoboID and password. Check out materials using your photo ID. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email ([srsulibrary@sulross.edu](mailto:srsulibrary@sulross.edu)), or phone (432-837-8123).

### **Distance Education Statement**

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as Smarthinking, library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

### **Special Needs**

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Rebecca Greathouse Wren, LPC-S, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email [rebecca.wren@sulross.edu](mailto:rebecca.wren@sulross.edu). Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

### **Tentative Weekly Course Outline (Subject to change)**

1. Week of August 24  
Syllabus, introduction

2. Week of August 31  
Text Introduction—Talking About Music (melody, harmony, rhythm, etc.)

3. Week of September 7  
Part I (Chapters 1-2); **Quiz on music fundamentals**
4. Week of September 14  
Part I (Chapters 4-6)
5. Week of September 21  
Part 2 (Chapter 7); *film-Rumble*
6. Week of September 28  
Part 2 (Chapters 8-10)
7. Week of October 5  
Part 3 (Chapters 11-12)
8. Week of October 12  
Part 3 (Chapters 13-14)
9. Week of October 19  
Part 3 (Chapters 15-17)
10. Week of October 26  
Part 4 (Chapter 18); *film-musical*
11. Week of November 2  
Part 4 (Chapters 19-20)
12. Week of November 9  
Part 4 (Chapter 21); Part 5 (Chapter 22)
13. Week of November 16  
Part 5 (Chapter 23); **Lyrics Project due**
14. Week of November 23  
Part 5 (Chapters 24-25) (**Thanksgiving Holiday W, F**)
15. Week of November 30  
Part 5 (Chapter 26)
16. Week of December 7  
**Final Exam-Final Video Presentations Due**