

## American Music—MUS 1309

### Spring 2023

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

**Email:** mary.thompson@sulross.edu; *secondary email:* methompson12@gmail.com

**Office:** FAB 202

**Class Meetings:** Web-delivered

**Office Hours:** \*Email the instructor to schedule virtual meetings at a mutually convenient time.

#### 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 fills a core curriculum requirement in the category of Language, Philosophy, and Culture.

**Note:** The following core curriculum objectives will be evaluated this semester:

#### Personal Responsibility

Students will develop principles of personal responsibility for living in a diverse world; to include intercultural competency, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities.

#### Social Responsibility

Students will develop principles of social responsibility for living in a diverse world, to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

#### 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 and quizzes will be given throughout the semester in order to assess students' understanding of the material and reflect upon music listened to for assignments. These include, but are not limited to, reflection papers on assigned listening and quizzes on terms and reading from the textbook. (*1,2,3*)
- One concert report will be completed during the semester. Students will be required to watch a live performance on the SRSU campus OR an online performance approved by the instructor and will write a 500-750-word report about the concert. (*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

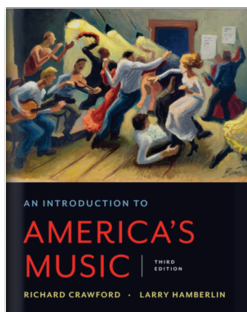
- Blackboard access and internet access (*these services provided on campus*)
- Textbook **with playlist access**
- All work should be typed, either using a word processing program, or better still, a cloud-based web application such as Blackboard, Google Docs, Office 365, etc.

### Textbook options

- **I highly recommend** the eBook version of the text, found at:  
<https://wwnorton.com/books/9780393668285>

OR if you can get the hard copy in a **timely** manner...

- 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).



### 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. Listening Response Assignments/Quizzes – 30%

2. Weekly Assignments – 30%
3. Final Video Presentation – 15%
4. Concert Report – 15%
5. Lyrics Project—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, concert report, and the final presentation on a separate handout.**

### **Professional Communication Policy**

- All communication with me should be done primarily through email, phone, or virtual meetings.
- You are expected to check your email and the course Blackboard page on a **regular basis**.

### **SRSU Library Services**

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial 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 logging in with your LoboID and password. 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 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. 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. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

### **SRSU Disability Services**

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. Alpine students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mary Schwartze Grisham, M.Ed., LPC, 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 [mschwartz@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartz@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, SUI Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832.

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

1. Week of January 16  
Syllabus and introduction to course

2. Week of January 23  
Text Introduction—Talking About Music (melody, harmony, rhythm, etc.)
3. Week of January 30  
Part 1: America's Music from the Colonization through the Civil War (Chapters 1-2); **Quiz #1**
4. Week of February 6  
Part 1 (Chapters 4-5)
5. Week of February 13  
Part 1; Part 2: America's Music from the Civil War through World War I (Chapter 6-7)
6. Week of February 20  
***film-Rumble*; Quiz #2**
7. Week of February 27  
Part 2 (Chapters 8-10)
8. Week of March 6  
Part 3: America's Music from World War I through World War II (Chapters 11-12)
9. Week of March 13  
**Spring Break**
10. Week of March 20  
Part 3 (Chapters 13-14); **Quiz #3**
11. Week of March 27  
Part 3 (Chapters 15-17); **Lyrics Project due**
12. Week of April 3  
Part 4: America's Music in the Postwar Era (Chapter 18); ***film-musical***
13. Week of April 10  
Part 4 (Chapters 19-20); **Concert Report due**
14. Week of April 17  
Part 4; Part 5: America's Music Since 1980 (Chapters 21, 24)
15. Week of April 24  
Part 5 (Chapter 22)
16. Week of May 1  
Part 5 (Chapter 25, 26); ***final presentation topic due***
17. Week of May 8  
**Quiz #4**
18. Week of May 15  
**Final Exam-Final Video Presentations Due**