

# American Music MUS 1309

## Fall, 2023

**Professor:** Nicolas Hurt, MM

**Email:** nicolas.hurt@sulross.edu

**Class Meetings:** MWF 9:00AM - 9:50AM, Lawrence Hall Room: 309

**Office Hours:** MWF 1:00PM - 2:00PM, FAB 202 or by appointment

### **Course Description**

This course develops student understanding of American Music through a survey of major musical figures, works, and movements in American history. This course will familiarize students with musical styles, pieces, composers, and instruments as they developed through each major historical period. The core curriculum category into which this course falls is Creative Arts.

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

No prior musical training is required for this course.

Emphasized SLOs for this semester:

- **Critical Thinking:** Students will develop critical thinking skills to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
- **Communication:** Students will develop communication skills to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.

After completing this course students should be able to:

- 1) use basic terminology in writing or oral presentation to describe musical elements including pitch, rhythm, melody, harmony, tempo, dynamics, timbre, texture, and form. (Communication)
- 2) demonstrate a broad knowledge of musical time periods by including examples of major works and composers. (Knowledge)
- 3) implement critical thinking skills in order to identify and discuss the roots of current popular music, world music, and trends. (Critical Thinking)
- 4) demonstrate ability to think critically and write coherently about musical figures, works, and movements within American musical history. (Critical Thinking, Communication)

### **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 in class or for an assignment. These assignments include, but are not limited to, Blackboard Discussion Board activities, short reflection papers, and reading material such as current articles about music. (1,2,3)

- The final presentation will be on a composer, performer, composition, or movement within music chosen by the student. Each student will present information about their topic with appropriate research and citations in a format of their choice and present it to the class. (PowerPoint, lecture, etc.) (1,2,3,4)

### **Marketable Skills:**

The music student graduating with a BM in music (instrumental or vocal performance; instrumental or vocal education; or music business) should have the following Marketable Skills:

1. Ability to collaborate and network with others to achieve a shared goal, utilizing problem solving, flexibility and improvisation, and consideration of others' thoughts and creative processes.\*
2. Proficiency in public speaking and writing about music, especially in teaching basic musical concepts to all ages and incorporating technology for presentation and production.\*
3. Ability to prepare and perform a program of age-appropriate, relevant, and diverse repertoire, as an individual or part of an ensemble, to an audience, advocating for the arts through engaging with and serving the community.
4. Experience using problem solving skills and abstract thinking to analyze compositions and examine their aesthetic through musical and extra-musical concepts, such as historical context and text setting.
5. Ability to create and disseminate basic marketing and public relations materials, as well as resumes, websites, and digital portfolios.

Marketable Skills specifically addressed by this course indicated with \*

### **Required Materials**

- Blackboard access and internet access (these services provided on campus)
- Textbook with companion website
- Spotify account (free)
- 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>  
- includes An Introduction to America's Music digital access (required)

OR, if you can obtain the hard copy in a timely manner...

- Hard copy: An Introduction to America's Music, Authors: Richard Crawford, Larry Hamberlin  
ISBN: 978-0-393-69096-5  
- includes An Introduction to America's Music digital access (required)  
- can be purchased online through Amazon, W.W. Norton, or other sites. DO NOT PURCHASE A USED COPY OF THIS TEXTBOOK.

### **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. Quizzes – 30%
2. Written Assignments – 30%
3. Concert attendance and Reports – 20%
4. Final Presentation – 20%

### **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, concert reports, and the final video presentation on a separate handout.**

### **Professional Communication Policy**

- All communication with me should be done through email, Blackboard or Office hours.
- You are expected to check your email and Blackboard 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).

### **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. 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.

Fall 2023

Course Outline (Subject to Change)

Week 1

MON 8.28 Introduction / Syllabus  
WED 8.30 Chapter 1 - Sacred Music in the European Colonies  
FRI 9.1 Chapter 1 - Sacred Music in the European Colonies cont.

Week 2

MON 9.4 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY - NO CLASS  
WED 9.6 Chapter 2 - Secular Music in the Colonies and Early Republic  
FRI 9.8 Chapter 2 - Secular Music in the Colonies and Early Republic cont.

Week 3

MON 9.11 Chapter 4 - African American Music Before the Civil War  
WED 9.13 Chapter 4 - African American Music Before the Civil War cont.  
FRI 9.15 Chapter 5 - Cultivating Musical Tastes in Antebellum America

Week 4

MON 9.18 (ONLINE CLASS) Chapter 6 - Minstrelsy and Popular Song Through the Civil War  
WED 9.20 Chapter 6 - Minstrelsy and Popular Song Through the Civil War cont.  
FRI 9.22 QUIZ 1 (Part 1 - pre Civil War)

Week 5

MON 9.25 Chapter 7 - American Indian Music, Folk Songs, Spirituals, and their Collectors  
WED 9.27 Chapter 7 - American Indian Music, Folk Songs, Spirituals, and their Collectors cont.  
FRI 9.29 Chapter 8 - Band Music, Gospel Hymns, Popular Songs after the Civil War

Week 6

MON 10.2 Chapter 9 - Classical Music Comes of Age  
WED 10.4 Chapter 10 - Popular Music, Theater, and Dance at the Turn of the Century  
FRI 10.6 QUIZ 2 (Part 2 Civil War - WW1) Written Assignment 1 Due

Week 7

MON 10.9 Live Performance and Q&A  
WED 10.11 Chapter 11 - The Rise of Blues and Gospel Music  
FRI 10.13 Chapter 11 - The Rise of Blues and Gospel Music cont.

Week 8

MON 10.16 Chapter 12 - Jazz in the Modern Era (Concert report 1 Due)  
WED 10.18 Chapter 12 - Jazz in the Modern Era cont.  
FRI 10.20 Chapter 13 - Country and Folk Music in the Modern Era

Week 9

MON 10.23 Chapter 15 - Concert Music in the Modern Era  
WED 10.25 Chapter 15 - Concert Music in the Modern Era cont.  
FRI 10.27 Chapter 16 - Modernist Music During and After the Great Depression

Week 10

MON 10.30 QUIZ 3 (WW1 - WW2) Chapter 17 - Classical Music in the Postwar Era  
WED 11.1 Chapter 17 - Classical Music in the Postwar Era cont.  
FRI 11.3 Chapter 18 - Jazz, Musical Theater, and Film Music in the Postwar Era

Week 11

MON 11.6 Chapter 19 - Country and Folk Music in the Postwar Era  
WED 11.8 Chapter 19 - Country and Folk Music in the Postwar Era cont.  
FRI 11.10 Chapter 20 - Popular Music in the Early Postwar Era

Week 12

MON 11.13 Chapter 21 - Popular Music in the Late Postwar Era  
WED 11.15 Chapter 21 - Popular Music in the Late Postwar Era cont.  
FRI 11.17 QUIZ 4 (Postwar Era)

Week 13

MON 11.20 Screening: Nicolas Hurt - Serenade, I Miss You  
WED 11.22 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY  
FRI 11.24 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Week 14

MON 11.27 Texas Music  
WED 11.29 Texas Music  
FRI 12.1 Texas Music

Week 15

MON 12.4 Chapter 25 Popular Music Since 1980  
WED 12.6 Presentations, Written Assignment 2 Due

FINAL EXAM:

TUE 12.12 8:00AM - 10:00AM (Concert report 2 Due)

Final Exam: Presentations

Concert Opportunities:

**September 2023**

Fri. 29 - Recital Hour

Location: TBA - 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

**October 2023**

Sun. 8th - Taft Mashburn / Abe Hollow

IN MARFA - St. Paul's Episcopal Church Time TBD

Mon. 9th - Taft Mashburn / Abe Hollow

IN OUR CLASS

Sat. 14th - Vocal Recital

Location TBD - 3:00 PM

Wed. 25 - Concert Choir Performance

Location: TBA - 6:30 PM Call / 7:30 PM Performance

Sat. 28 - Organ Recital

First Presbyterian Church Alpine - 2:00 PM

Mon. 30 - Big Bend Community Band

Granada Theatre - 7:30 PM

**November 2023**

Fri. 10 - Concert Band Performance

Studio Theatre - 7:30 PM Performance

Tues. 14 - Big Bend Children's and Vivace Youth Performance

TBD

Wed. 15 - Vocal Studio Recital - Recital Hearing

Studio Theatre - 7:30 PM

Fri. 17 - Instrumental Studio Recital - Recital Hearing

Studio Theatre - 4:00 PM

Tues. 28 - Guitar Studio Recital

Studio Theatre - 7:30 PM

**December 2023**

Fri. 01 - Music Honor Recital

Studio Theatre - 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Wed. 06 - Band and Choir Candlelight Concert

Marshall Auditorium 6:00 PM Call / 7:30 PM Performance