

# **Course Syllabus**

## **African American Music**

Department of Music and Theatre College of Arts and Sciences

**Instructor Name:** Dr. William F. McQueen III  
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**Office Hours:** 3:00 – 5:00pm  
**Virtual Office Hours:**

**Course Location:** 2G254 Hobart Taylor Hall

**Class Meeting Days & Times:**

11:00am – 12:20pm TTH

**Course Abbreviation and Number:**

MUSC 2333 (CRN 20949)

**Catalog Description:** To aid the student in developing an understanding and appreciation for the several genres and styles of music, when taken together, define African American Music in the United States

**Prerequisites:** None  
None

**Required Text:** The Music of Black Americans, Third Edition by Eileen Southern

**Recommended Text:**

**Access to Learning Resources:** PVAMU Library:  
phone: (936) 261-1500;  
web:  
University Bookstore:  
phone: (936) 261-1990  
web:

### **Course Goals or Overview:**

*This lecture course is designed for students, both music majors and non majors, who seek an appreciation, understanding and comprehensive introduction to the music of African Americans, its history and the development of musical styles in the Western tradition in support of Music Program Outcome #1: "Students.*

### **Course Objectives:**

**At the end of this course, the student will be able to**

- Compare and distinguish the music of African Americans, regarding information about music, its literature, styles, forms and vocabulary presented through recordings, lectures, video, text and live performances.
- Speak and write about the music of African Americans
- Identify the several genres and many styles of music which, when taken together, define African American music.

### **Submission of Assignments:**

### **Formatting Documents:**

Microsoft Word is the standard word processing tool used at PVAMU. If you're using other word processors, be sure to use the "save as" tool and save the document in either the Microsoft Word, Rich-Text, or plain text format.

### **Exam Policy**

Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except under documented emergencies (See Student Handbook).

### **Course Evaluation Methods**

<b>Core Curriculum Outcome</b>	<b>How is it used?</b>	<b>How is it assessed?</b>
<b>1) Critical Thinking</b> <i>creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information</i>	Compare and Contrast Essay: The students will complete an essay comparing and distinguishing the music of African Americans from other American genres using supporting materials from literature, styles, form and vocabulary presented through recordings, lectures, video, text and live performances.	Students are assessed using the University Rubric on Critical Thinking.
<b>2) Communication</b> <i>effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication</i>	Class discussion - Each student will lead class discussion in-class oral presentation identifying elements specific to African American music in various time periods (according to schedule on course outline).	For oral presentation, students are assessed using the University rubric for Oral Communication.
<b>3) Teamwork</b> <i>ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal</i>	Group Project: Student groups will be assigned an African American Composer/Music, each from a different historical period, to research and present an oral group presentation.	University rubric for Teamwork is used to assess.
<b>4) Social Responsibility</b> <i>Intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities</i>	Live Performance and Response: The students are required to attend at least one live music concert that features African American music from a historical time period and write a response that reflects the relevance of the music to the social issues of that era.	Students are assessed using the University Rubric on Social responsibility.

### Grading Matrix

<b>Instrument</b>	<b>Value (points or percentages)</b>	<b>Total</b>
Group Assignment	12.5 X 1	12.5
Paper	12.5 X 1	12.5
Exercise	12.5 X 1	12.5
Quizzes	6.25 X 2	12.5
Project	12.5 X 1	12.5
Term Exams	12.5 X 1	12.5
Class Participation/ Discussion	12.5	12.5
Final Exam	12.5 X 1	12.5
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

#### Grade Determination:

- A = 100 – 90pts;
- B = 89 – 80pts;
- C = 79 – 70pts;
- D = 69 – 60pts;
- F = 59pts or below

## Course Outline: Sixteen Week Calendar

### **Week One**

Review of Basic Music Fundamentals

### **Week Two**

The African Legacy

The Role of Music In Society

Musical Instruments Performance and Practice

### **Week Three**

The Colonial Era

Patterns of Slavery in the North

Patterns of Slavery in the South

### **Week Four: Quiz**

Antebellum Urban Life

Black Musicians and the General State of Music

Urban Music In the North

Urban Music in the South

### **Week Five**

Antebellum Rural Life

Daily Life on the Plantation

Entertainment for the Masters

### **Week Six**

The War Years and Emancipation

Music In the Union Army

Music in the Confederate Army

Emancipation

### **Week Seven**

After The War

Songs of the People

Black Ethiopian Minstrelsy

### **Week Eight: Mid-Term Exam and Review**

### **Week Nine**

The New Century

Music Nationalism

Vaudeville and Musical Comedy

### **Week Ten**

Precursors of Jazz

The Emergence of Ragtime

The Blues

Brass Bands and String Orchestras in Chicago and Other Cities

### **Week Eleven: Quiz**

The Jazz Age

Characteristics of Jazz

The Big Bands

Jazz Women and Band Leaders

### **Week Twelve**

The Harlem Renaissance

Black Musicals on Broadway

Harlem and the New Negro

Student Papers Due and Presentation Begin

Group Projects Due

### **Week Thirteen**

The Mid-Century Decades

The Gospel Sound

Continue Presentations

### **Week Fourteen**

Singers, Instrumentalist and Composers

The World of Opera

Continue Student Presentations

### **Week Fifteen: Continue Student Presentations**

### **Week Sixteen: Final Examination**

# University Rules and Procedures

## **Disability statement (See Student Handbook):**

Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in class should register with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal laws, a student requesting special accommodations must provide documentation of their disability to the SSD coordinator.

## **Academic misconduct (See Student Handbook):**

You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with your Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures.

## **Forms of academic dishonesty:**

1. Cheating: deception in which a student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations.
2. Academic misconduct: tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.
3. Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.
4. Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation and/or paraphrase of someone else's words, ideas, or data as one's own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the Internet and submitting them as one's own work also constitutes plagiarism.

## **Nonacademic misconduct (See Student Handbook)**

The university respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus conditions that do not impede their exercise. Campus behavior that interferes with either (1) the instructor's ability to conduct the class, (2) the inability of other students to profit from the instructional program, or (3) campus behavior that interferes with the rights of others will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such disruptive behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Dean of Students under nonacademic procedures.

## **Sexual misconduct (See Student Handbook):**

Sexual harassment of students and employers at Prairie View A&M University is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

## **Attendance Policy:**

Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Excessive absences will result in lowered grades. Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student's course grade being reduced or in assignment of a grade of "F". Absences are accumulated beginning with the first day of class.

## **Student Academic Appeals Process**

Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students rests with the faculty. However, in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor's assessment of their academic performance, the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the Undergraduate Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint.

# Technical Considerations for Online and Web-Assist Courses

## Minimum Hardware and Software Requirements:

- Pentium with Windows XP or PowerMac with OS 9
- 56K modem or network access
- Internet provider with SLIP or PPP
- 8X or greater CD-ROM
- 64MB RAM
- Hard drive with 40MB available space
- 15" monitor, 800x600, color or 16 bit
- Sound card w/speakers
- Microphone and recording software
- Keyboard & mouse
- Netscape Communicator ver. 4.61 or Microsoft Internet Explorer ver. 5.0 /plug-ins
- Participants should have a basic proficiency of the following computer skills:
  - Sending and receiving email
  - A working knowledge of the Internet
  - Proficiency in Microsoft Word
  - Proficiency in the Acrobat PDF Reader
  - Basic knowledge of Windows or Mac O.S.

**Netiquette (online etiquette):** students are expected to participate in all discussions and virtual classroom chats when directed to do so. Students are to be respectful and courteous to others in the discussions. Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated. When referring to information from books, websites or articles, please use APA standards to reference sources.

**Technical Support:** Students should call the Prairie View A&M University Helpdesk at 936-261-2525 for technical issues with accessing your online course. The helpdesk is available 24 hours a day/7 days a week. For other technical questions regarding your online course, call the Office of Distance Learning at 936-261-3290 or 936-261-3282

## Communication Expectations and Standards:

All emails or discussion postings will receive a response from the instructor within 48 hours.

You can send email anytime that is convenient to you, but I check my email messages continuously during the day throughout the work-week (Monday through Friday). I will respond to email messages during the work-week by the close of business (5:00 pm) on the day following ***my receipt*** of them. Emails that I receive on Friday will be responded to by the close of business on the following Monday.

## Submission of Assignments:

Assignments, Papers, Exercises, and Projects will distributed and submitted through your online course. Directions for accessing your online course will be provided. Additional assistance can be obtained from the Office of Distance Learning.

## Discussion Requirement:

Because this is an online course, there will be no required face to face meetings on campus. However, we will participate in conversations about the readings, lectures, materials, and other aspects of the course in a true seminar fashion. We will accomplish this by use of the discussion board.

Students are required to log-on to the course website often to participate in discussion. It is strongly advised that you check the discussion area daily to keep abreast of discussions. When a topic is posted, everyone is required to participate. The exact use of discussion will be determined by the instructor.

**It is strongly suggested** that students type their discussion postings in a word processing application and save it to their PC or a removable drive before posting to the discussion board. This is important for two reasons: 1) If for some reason your discussion responses are lost in your online course, you will have another copy; 2) Grammatical errors can be greatly minimized by the use of the spell-and-grammar check functions in word processing applications. Once the post(s) have been typed and corrected in the word processing application, it should be copied and pasted to the discussion board.