



Musical Life in America

MUSC 2400 Section 001

Course Description

This course provides an overview of American musical life from the colonial period to the present. It covers the music of Native Americans, the European legacy, and the African Diaspora, and explores the unique social and political context that shaped America's musical landscape. The course is not a chronological survey and does not aim to cover all U.S. or global music. Instead, it focuses on topics such as the establishment of the culture industry, sacred music, parlor music, concert and theater music, the cultivation of oral traditions, the emergence of jazz, the trajectory of western art music in the United States, and the eventual global dominance of American popular music.

Prerequisite: [MUSC 1700](#) or [2700](#), or equivalent; or by permission of the instructor. Preference given to music Majors and Minors. Fulfills the Cultural Diversity in the U.S. College Requirement.

Grades & Grading

Everyone has an opportunity to earn an A in this course. Grading is cumulative and affected by regular attendance, participation, and coursework submission. You will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Attendance & Participation (25%)
- Listening Exam #1 (15%)
- Listening Exam #2 (15%)
- Concert Report (15%)
- Final Project (30%)

Course Topics (Subject to Revision)

Introduction to Course & Study of American Music
Indigenous American Music: Identity & Cultural Exchange
Sacred Music in Colonial America
Secular Music in Colonial America
Secular African Music
Sacred African Music
Blackface Minstrelsy
Folk Blues
Second New England School/Boston Classicists
Tin Pan Alley
Ragtime & the Origins of Jazz
Urban Blues
Tejano
Early Country Music
American Experimentalists
Rock & Roll
Motown
British Invasion
Rhythm & Groove: Funk & Disco
Hip-Hop
K-Pop