



## **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