

American Popular Music

VPIA Department
Room 149

Ms. Estrada
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Course Description / Objectives

The four major areas of American contemporary music: jazz, rock, country, and musical theater are analyzed. Each genre is approached chronologically with an emphasis on the socio-cultural aspects of the music. Students will come away with the fundamental skills needed to listen critically to a variety of popular music styles and they will gain exposure to career pathways in the arts. Attention is given to changes in American Music in the new millennium with special attention to cross-genre music, hip-hop, technological developments, and the influence of media on popular music.

Course Text: Units & Chapters

Text: “American Popular Music” *Third Edition*, David Lee Joyner, 2009

Unit 1: Tin Pan Alley And the Theater

- ★ Chapter 1: Tin Pan Alley and American Popular Song
- ★ Chapter 2: American Musical Theater

Unit 2: The African American Tradition

- ★ Chapter 3: African Origins and Acculturation in the New World
- ★ Chapter 4: Early Commercialization of African Music
- ★ Chapter 5: American Blues Traditions
- ★ Chapter 6: Jazz in New Orleans and Chicago
- ★ Chapter 7: Jazz Pioneers in Chicago
- ★ Chapter 8: Big Band and the Swing Years
- ★ Chapter 9: Popular Styles in Jazz Since the Swing Era

Unit 3: Country Music and the Anglo-American Tradition

- ★ Chapter 10: The Folk Origins of Country Music
- ★ Chapter 11: Early Commercialization of Country Music
- ★ Chapter 12: Country Meets Western
- ★ Chapter 13: Nashville Becomes Music City, U.S.A.
- ★ Chapter 14: From Bluegrass to Young Country

Unit 4: Rock and the Gathering of America's Music

- ★ Chapter 15: The Origins and Development of Early Rock
- ★ Chapter 16: Fifties Pop and Folk Rock
- ★ Chapter 17: The British Invasion
- ★ Chapter 18: Psychedelic Rock and Roots Revivalists
- ★ Chapter 19: Gospel, Soul, and Motown
- ★ Chapter 20: From Progressive Rock to Reggae in the Seventies
- ★ Chapter 21: Hard and Soft Rock in the Seventies
- ★ Chapter 22: New Heights and High Tech in the Eighties
- ★ Chapter 23: Many Sounds from Many Places in the Nineties
- ★ Chapter 24: Music in the New Millennium

Required Materials

- Chromebook
- Chromebook Charger

**Always bring your materials to class! Preparation for learning is considered in your participation grade.*

Classroom Expectations

- Students are expected to abide by the school dress code (i.e. no hats, pajamas, headphones, etc.)
- Cell phone use is NOT permitted in the classroom UNLESS instructed by the teacher to use it for an assignment. “Out of Sight, Out of Mind”
- Students are expected to arrive ON TIME for class. Tardiness will affect your grades. Any REASON for tardiness should be reported to the teacher with a valid & signed school pass.

Extra Help

If you would like extra help or would like to use the choir room/piano lab as a place for practice, you may come in during the SAP period.

Grading

CATEGORY & WEIGHT		DESCRIPTION
LEVEL 1 - 20% of the marking period grade		- Formative assignments, awarded grades for accuracy and/or active engagement
LEVEL 2 - 30% of the marking period grade		- In-depth assignments, measure level of understanding, transfer content knowledge to learning activities
LEVEL 3 - 50% of the marking period grade		- Students mastered the content taught
A+	97 - 100	
A	93 - 96	
A-	90 - 92	
B+	87 - 89	
B	83 - 86	
B-	80 - 82	
C+	77 - 79	
C	73 - 76	
C-	70 - 72	
D+	67 - 69	
D	65 - 66	
F	55 - 64	

Assignments / Late Work Policy:

If an assignment is late, five points will be deducted for each class period that the assignment is late. However, the grade in the Gradebook will remain an “M” as missing until handed in. Late work will be accepted before “cut-off” dates. Late work will **not** be accepted all at once at the end of the marking period.