WACO, TEXAS

# COURSE SYLLABUS

# AND

# INSTRUCTOR PLAN

## HISTORY OF AMERICAN MUSIC

## MUSI 1310_O081

## COURSE SYLLABUS

**Jonathan Kutz**

**NOTE: This is a 16-week course.**
**NOTE: This is a Face- to-Face course.**

**Course Description:**

A survey of the evolution of jazz, blues, latin, country and rock styles, contributions of important performers, and musical techniques involved in the creation and performance of blues based music. This course will introduce students to the History of American Music (The trail of the Blues), as it evolved in the United States and spread throughout the world. In addition to the historical perspective, internet discussion boards will focus on aesthetic and sociological issues that have influenced the various developments within the genre.
Mr. Kutz will share his own personal experience as a musician and try to convey the artistic sensibility that is inherent in all artists and styles.

**Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:**

None

**Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:**

**Instructor Information:**

Instructor Name: Jonathan Kutz
MCC E-mail: jkutz@mclennan.edu
Office Phone Number: 254 299-8110
Office Location: MTA 115

**Office/Teacher Conference Hours:**
**M- (Online) 800-930**
**T-800-930 and 130-230**
**W 800-930**
**TH- 800-930**
**F- Online 8-930**

Other Instruction Information:

**Required Text & Materials:**

Course outline packet is available at the bookstore ($5) or can be printed off at home. Access to Netflix, Dropbox and Youtube.

**MCC Bookstore Website: http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/**

**Methods of Teaching and Learning:**

Video Lectures, Discussion Boards

**Course Objectives and/or Competencies:**

This course will provide the student an opportunity to;
---become familiar with the sound of the many variants that are grouped under the heading "rock and roll", focusing primarily on American & British performers in the categories of Jazz, Blues, Country, R&B, Gospel, Rock 'n Roll, Contemporary Christian, Latin and Rap.
---develop the ability to "LISTEN, "not just hear" when participating in the musical experience.
---acquire a musical vocabulary that will enable concise, intellectual discussion about any music.
---gain experience in communicating with others about music, clearly expressing one's own opinions and beliefs.
---learn about individuals integral to the evolution of rock music (e.g., composers, performers, etc.), circumstances surrounding their lives, and style elements common to the various sub-genres.
---gain a historical perspective including listening to and discussing primary musical, social, and aesthetic influences on the emergence & development of rock music.
---apply newly-acquired knowledge about music to unfamiliar contexts.
---identify musical examples from repertoire covered in this course to illustrate the various concepts presented and discussed in class.
---gain a clearer understanding of one's own current musical preferences and the basis for this selection.
---accept the dynamic nature of musical style, realizing that music of tomorrow may require a re-thinking & reformulation of concepts, beliefs, and preferences held today.
---stimulate an appreciation for popular music as a relevant art form within contemporary society and realize the influence that music plays in influencing and shaping society.

**Develop an understanding of the principles that govern and/or guide the musical arts**.

- **Critical Thinking Skills** - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information (Assessed through Discussion Boards, Concert Reviews, Chapter Quizzes, Unit Exams, and the Final Exam)

- **Communication Skills** - to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication (Assessed through Discussion Boards, Concert Reviews)

- **Teamwork** - to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal (Assessed through Discussion Boards)

- **Social Responsibility**: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities (Assessed through Discussion Boards, Concert Reviews, Chapter Quizzes, Unit Exams, and the Final Exam)

**Course Attendance/Participation Guidelines:**

If a student is not in attendance in accordance with the policies/guidelines of the class as outlined in the course syllabus as of the course census date, faculty are required to drop students from their class roster prior to certifying the respective class roster. A student's financial aid will be re-evaluated accordingly and the student will only receive funding for those courses attended as of the course census date.

Before the 60% point of the semester, a student who is absent for 25% or more of a face-to-face or blended course or who misses 25% or more of assigned work for an online course will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of W. A student may also request to be withdrawn with a grade of W before the 60% point of the semester. After the 60% point of the semester, the student may request to be withdrawn if the student is passing, or be assigned the final grade earned at the end of the semester after grades have been updated to reflect missing work.

**Course Outline or Schedule:**

The course in a nutshell:

---No book, no reading!

---Watch a video, fill out a study guide and take a quiz.

---Use Youtube to find videos of artists for our discussion boards.

---Be prepared to spend at least 3 hours a week on this class during the Fall and Spring terms and 10 hours per week during the summer terms.

---You will need to access to Netflix for the last 2 weeks of the class to view Hip Hop Evolution.

---You can stream the main documentary series: SoundBreaking and Sonic Highways. These are becoming more available on YouTube.

---All other documentaries are on Youtube.

***The due dates for all work are due on a Weekly basis.*** Discussion Board (DB) main responses are due by midnight Thursday. Two quizzes per week are due by midnight Sunday as well as 3 DB responses. I allow for quiz make-ups but remain firm on due dates for all DB posts.

**VIDEO LECTURES**- (50% of your grade) These documentaries are located in various places: You can stream or purchase some from Amazon, view others on Youtube, Netflix or Dropbox. You are to view each program and then fill out the outline. There are 2 videos per week in the fall and spring semesters and 6 videos per week in the summer terms. These will cover the entire spectrum of American Music. There is a documentary on ***Jazz***, a 4 part series on ***Country Music***, a two part series on the ***Blues***, a two part series on ***Latin Music.*** ***SoundBreaking*** is a 10 part documentary series made by PBS. ***Sonic Highways*** is an 8 part series made by rock musician **Dave Grohl**. We will watch a 4 part series on Netflix called ***Rap Evolution***. Also included are overviews of decades from the 50's through the 90's. **There is overlap of alot of the material**, but that will help you see what is important and reinforce what happened in each decade.

**Warning: In the Hip Hop Evolution series and Sonic Highways series there is some curse language being used by our rock and rap pioneer friends. My apologies, but the depth and scope of these series makes up for those who are using the "King's English." If this is offensive to you and you feel that you are forced to listen to this and want to complain, please consider dropping the course. (This is no worse than your average cable channel or Hollywood movie.)**

SoundBreaking Link to Buy or Stream (The series is available for around $21.) Streaming episodes are $3, we will watch 7 episodes= $21.

Sonic Highways Link to buy or stream (There are used copies of the series for less than $6. Streaming episodes are $3, we will watch 7 episodes.

**Netflix** offers the first month free so you should be able to get by with that if you don't already have the service. We will watch Hip Hop Evolution (all 4 episodes) during the last two weeks of the semester.
All other video lectures will be on **Youtube**. These links are available throughout the course!

**DISCUSSION BOARDS-** (30% of your grade) You are **required** to participate in the weekly Discussion Boards (DB) that will focus on relevant topics of the week. There is two DB per week in the fall and spring semesters and 3 DB's per week in the summer terms. You are required to make a 200-300 word post and then read other classmates posts and respond to 3 of them. ANY USE OF AI GENERATED POSTS WILL BE GIVEN AN AUTOMATIC ZERO.
Short generic posts that appear rushed will not be counted. I read them all and try to respond to them. I consider this part of the course very important because you will form opinions about subject matter and get to know the famous performers of each musical decade. DB's must be completed on a weekly basis. Completing all DB's late (after a week is over) or on the last class day is not allowed. I will grade DB posts and there will be a grade in the grade book for them along with teacher comments.
**Feel free to post earlier with main posts and responses, dates given are the latest acceptable dates and times. The earlier you and others post, the easier it becomes for all of us. Feel free to do more, your effort will be recognized at the end of the term!**

**The rules for posting**; Make a main response by midnight Thursday and make a total of 3 responses to other student posts the last 3 days of the week. To be clear, that is 4 total posts per assignment. (8 week courses will have two DB's per week.) (In the summer terms there are 3 DB's per week and the due date varies, depending on which day of the week the term begins.) This will help make the DB a discussion and not just responses at the last minute. DB's are due by 11:59pm the last day of the week. Also, there is a word minimum and maximum so students don't write too much or too little. The requirement is 200-400 words per main post. Responses should be at least 100 words, so pick responses that inspire you to write!

**AI POLICY** (Very Important!)
For discussion board main posts, please use Wikipedia to provide Artist bio's. I like Wiki

because I can clearly see what's from the site. Please post your opinion in a new paragraph underneath the biography.
The use of generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Dall-e, etc.) is permitted in this course for the following activities:
• Finding information on your topic;
• Checking grammar and style. (Like Grammerly)

**The use of generative AI tools is not permitted in this course for the following activities:**
• Impersonating you in classroom contexts, such as by using the tool to compose discussion board main posts or responses.
• Writing entire sentences, paragraphs or papers to complete class assignments. You are responsible for the information you submit based on an AI query (for instance, that it does not violate intellectual property laws, or contain misinformation or unethical content). Your use of AI tools must be properly documented and cited in order to stay within university policies on academic honesty. Any assignment that is found to have used generative AI tools in unauthorized ways will result in:
• DB Main Post- You are allowed to use Wikipedia for career summaries in the DB. You are also required to include **your opinion** of the content of your post. In the case that your opinion is AI generated the penalty will be ZERO points.
• No points for an AI DB response. The response is based on your opinion or reaction to another students post. Summarizing the artist's career again is not a proper response or opinion.
• As tempting as it is to use AI for your college work, just know that it is very easy for your professor to check your work by running it thru an AI detector.

## Course Grading Information:

---Video Lecture quizzes may be taken two times and =50% of your grade.

---Discussion Board posts are graded and= 30% of your grade.

---Midterm exam covers about 14 video lectures and can be taken only once= 10% of your grade

----Final exam cover about 14 video lectures and can be taken only once= 10% of your grade.

## Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:

I allow make ups for all quizzes as follows:
---Quizzes for unit's 1-7 can be taken or made up until the midterm period is over, then unit's 1-7 are turned off.
---Quizzes for unit's 8-14 can be taken or made up until the last day of class for the semester.

I DON'T ACCEPT THE DB'S TO BE MADE UP LATE.

Sometimes life gets in the way of a semester, please notify all of your professors of life changing events and let us try to accommodate your needs as best we can. If a grade of incomplete is given, you have a semester to get it made up.

**Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:**

Since we meet face to face, most of our interactions are done in class and on the Discussion Board. Please be respectful of others when responding in class and in discussion board postings. I will not tolerate foul language or disrespectful remarks. Everyone is entitled to an opinion and we can learn from everyone. This class should a "labor of love" if you love music. Please treat others with respect. I can and will remove any DB posts that are offensive in any matter. If there is a situation with another student please contact me ASAP so it can be resolved.

**Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy**

**(https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)**

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have additional guidelines specific to this course.

06/24/2025

MCLENNAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

**Accommodations/ADA Statement:**

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact Accommodations (Disability Services) as soon as possible to begin the steps for requesting accommodations. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by Accommodations (Disability Services). For additional information, please visit www.mclennan.edu/disability

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

disabilities@mclennan.edu (254)299-8122
Room 319, Student Services

**Title IX:**

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a Federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs and activities that receive Federal funds. We care about your safety and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report a Title IX incident are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at titleix@mclennan.edu or by calling, Dr. Claudette Jackson, (Accommodations/Title IX) at (254) 299-8465.

Additionally, Title IX provides rights and protections for pregnant and newly parenting students which can include educational accommodations such as excused absences

and the opportunity to make up assignments and tests. Lactation spaces are also available on campus. Please email titleix@mclennan.edu for more information.

MCC employees are mandatory reporters and must report incidents immediately to the Title IX Coordinator. Faculty and Staff may email titleix@mclennan.edu to submit a report.

Individuals may also contact the MCC Police Department at (254) 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting https://www.lighthouse-services.com

Visit McLennan's Title IX webpage at https://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/ to learn more about Title IX protections, reporting, and resources.

**Student Support/Resources:**

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/

Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff. To schedule an appointment, go to https://calendly.com/paulannespantry-mcc/15min.

Academic Support and Tutoring is here to help students with all their course-related needs. Specializing in one-on-one tutoring, developing study skills, and effectively writing essays. Academic Support and Tutoring can be found in the Library and main floor of the Learning Commons. This service is available to students in person or through Zoom. You can contact the Academic Support and Tutoring team via Zoom or email (ast@mclennan.edu) by going to our website (https://www.mclennan.edu/academic-support-and-tutoring/)

**Success Coaching Services is here for you.**

We know life can be overwhelming sometimes—and that challenges outside the classroom can impact your success inside it. That's why our Success Coaches provide personalized support to help you navigate it all.

Success Coaching is available to every MCC student, no matter where you're starting from. Whether you're looking for direction, need quick advice, or just want someone to talk to, our coaches are here to listen, celebrate your strengths, and help you move forward with confidence. At Success Coaching Services, your voice is heard, your goals matter, and your future is our focus.

To learn more or schedule an appointment, visit www.mclennan.edu/successcoaching, call 254-299-8226, or email success@mclennan.edu.

College personnel also recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources and other essential resources, we encourage you to contact the CREW - Campus Resources Education Web by calling 254-299-8561 or emailing crew@mclennan.edu.

Success Coaching Services, the CREW, and Paulanne's Pantry are located on the second floor of the Student Services building in Success Coaching Services, suite 249.

The Student Counseling Center offers confidential mental health counseling to currently enrolled students at no charge. Counselors are trained to help students with problems related to personal, social, and emotional concerns. Sessions focus on short-term goals in order to facilitate students college success and adjustment. This service is available to students in person or through Zoom.

Make an appointment to meet with a counselor by visiting the center in the Wellness & Fitness building, room 101, calling 254-299-8210, or emailing counseling@mclennan.edu.

**MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:**

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html

**MCC Academic Integrity Statement:**

Please view our Academic Integrity statement for more information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating. The unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) for classwork can be a violation of the College's General Conduct Policy. Whether AI is authorized in a course and the parameters in which AI can be used in a course will be outlined by each instructor.

**Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:**
For online and blended/hybrid courses, students must have access to a reliable computer and internet. For more information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system go to: https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-and-StaffCommons/requirements.html

**Minimum Technical Skills:**
Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

**Backup Plan for Technology:**
In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

**Email Policy:**
McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails. For more information about your student email account, go to www.mclennan.edu/studentemail.

**Instructional Uses of Email:**
Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication

method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

**Email on Mobile Devices:**

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email Helpdesk@mclennan.edu for help.

You can find help on the McLennan website about connecting your McLennan email account to your mobile device:

- Email Setup for iPhones and iPads
- Email Setup for Androids

**Forwarding Emails:**

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

For more helpful information about technology at MCC, go to MCC's Tech Support or email helpdesk@mclennan.edu.

**Disclaimer:**

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.