McLENNAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS
AND
INSTRUCTOR PLAN

American Music

MUSI 1310 O180

Jon Fox

NOTE: This is an 8-week course.

Course Description:

History of American Popular Music is a survey of the evolution of jazz, blues, country and rock styles and the contributions of important performers and musical techniques involved in the creation and performance of popular music in America. This course will introduce students to the history of popular 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 various developments within the genre. Mr. Fox will share his own personal experience as a musician and attempt to convey the artistic sensibility that is inherent in all artists and styles.

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:
None

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

Students are strongly encouraged to purchase the course packet and fill in the study guides as you watch each video throughout the class.

You must check your MCC email address! Important class information and communication with your instructor will be primarily through your campus email address.

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Jon Fox
MCC E-mail: jfox@mclennan.edu
Office Phone Number: (254)299-8286
Office Location: BPAC 119
Office/Teacher Conference Hours: In-person and online via Zoom

Mon - 2:00-2:30pm
Tue - 11:00am-12:00pm
1:30-3:00pm
Wed - 2:00-2:30pm
Thur - 1:00-2:00pm
Fri - 1:00-3:00pm
(Online only)
and by appointment

Required Text & Materials:

The course outline packet is available at the MCC bookstore or can be printed directly from the class. Access to Netflix and YouTube will be required.

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

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

- Video lectures and 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" and its predecessors, 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 basic 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, producers, etc.), circumstances surrounding their lives, and stylistic elements common to the various sub-genres.
- Gain an 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 the role that music plays in influencing and shaping that society.

Course Outline or Schedule:

Each unit will consist in watching video lessons, filling out a study guide for each and taking a quiz, along with Discussion Board (DB) assignments that will focus on relevant topics for the unit.

- Due dates are weekly. Initial DB posts will be due by the end of the day on Thursday each week, with quizzes and additional DB replies due by the end of the day on Sunday.

- Be prepared to spend at least five hours per week on class material (remember this is a condensed schedule for the 8-week semester, so we have twice the amount of content to cover each week)

Video Lectures (50% of your grade)

Documentary videos are available on Amazon, Netflix or YouTube. You are to view each program, fill out the study guide and take a quiz on each. These will cover the entire spectrum of American Music, including:

- a documentary on **Jazz**
- a series on **Country Music**
- a series on **The Blues**
- a series on **Latin Music**
- **Soundbreaking**, a documentary series produced by PBS
- **Sonic Highways**, and series created by Foo Fighters frontman and former drummer for Nirvana, Dave Grohl
- a series on Netflix titled, **Hip-Hop Evolution**
- decade overviews from the 1950s through the '90s

You will find a lot of overlap in the material, but that will help you see what is important and reinforce what happened in each decade.

WARNING: The Hip-Hop Evolution and Sonic Highways series both contain strong language used by our rap and rock pioneer friends, although no worse than your average cable, streaming or Hollywood movie, in my opinion. In any case, if this is an issue for you, please consider dropping the course, no harm done.

Soundbreaking and **Sonic Highways** episodes will be available within the class on Brightspace. You will need access to a Netflix account in order to watch **Hip-Hop Evolution**. We will watch four episodes during the final two weeks of the semester, so you will need one month at most.

All other video lectures will be accessed on YouTube, with links available throughout the course.

Discussion Boards (30% of your grade)

All students are **required** to participate in the weekly Discussion Board (DB) that will focus on relevant topics for that week. There will two DB assignments per week (with the exception of one week in which there will be three).

Full credit for each DB assignment is dependent upon **both** an original, 200-400 word post (including relevant and tangible content appropriately addressing the topic for the week) and at least 3 responses to other students' posts over 3 different days. (Minimum four posts total per DB). I will be reading all posts and will respond to many of them.

Your initial post for each DB will be due by midnight on Thursday, with replies due by midnight on Sunday. You are of course free to post earlier than that and get the conversation rolling! Again, original posts should be approximately 200-400 words, replies should be around 100 words.

I consider this part of the course very important because you will form opinions about subject matter, display your knowledge about what you have learned and get to know the famous performers from throughout the years.

****IMPORTANT!! PLEASE READ AND REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING!!****

Posts and/or replies that appear to be wholly or substantially AI-generated will not count toward the requirements for the assignment. AI-generated writing is for the most part vapid and cliche', lacking in depth, detail or personal thoughts and reflections. I would much prefer to hear your own voice in these conversations, and you will not earn credit for the assignments if it appears that you are submitting AI-generated posts or replies. (Those personal thoughts and reflections are, after all, the whole point of the DBs).

In addition, remember that the DB assignments account for a significant portion of your grade. The DB will do no good if you merely answer three posts at 11:45pm on Sunday night. That is not really a discussion, that is a last-minute response. In order to facilitate a *discussion,* you are required to respond to at least **three different posts over three different days** for full credit on each assignment. This way you will have the opportunity to respond to

those students who might have responded to you. Answering posts with "I agree" or similar remarks will not count toward the DB requirements.

You will not have the opportunity to make up DB work.

Please keep in mind that the DB assignments can be viewed as basically a substitute for essays and other writing assignments that you would normally find in a traditional, face-to-face class. As such, it is expected that your DB posts exhibit college-level writing including complete sentences, appropriate grammar and punctuation and support *from the course materials or other relevant sources* for your claims and/or beliefs. Posts that do not exhibit these characteristics may not count toward the requirements for that particular DB assignment.

The DB assignments will be graded as follows:

	Points (%)
An original post and 3 or more responses on 3 different days	100% of points awarded
An original post and 2 or more responses on 2 different days	70% of points awarded
An original post and 3 or more responses on only 1 day	50% of points awarded
An original post and any less than 2 responses on 2 different days	20% of points awarded
Lack of an original post appropriately addressing the topic for the week (as outlined in the directions for each DB assignment)	20% deduction from above grades (10% if posted Fri/Sat)
Lack of a discussion question in your original post (when required)	5% deduction from above grades

A word on appropriate "Netiquette" - Please be respectful of others when responding to DB posts. Everyone is entitled to an opinion on these subjects, and in my experience we can ALL learn from each other. I will not tolerate foul language or disrespectful remarks. Posts that are offensive in any manner will be removed from the DB and will not count toward a grade for that DB assignment. If there is a situation with another student please contact me ASAP so it can be resolved.

Course Grading Information:

Grades will be based on the following:

Video lecture quizzes - (may each be taken twice)	50%
Discussion Board assignments	30%
Mid-term exam (covering units 1-7) - (can only be taken once)	10%
Final exam (covering units 8-14) - (can only be taken once)	10%

A standard numerical scale will be utilized in determining the students' final grade (90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, and so on).

Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:

Late work may be accepted at the discretion of the instructor, and may include late penalties up to 20%.

Quizzes for units 1-7 may be taken or made up until only until the mid-term exam.
Quizzes for units 8-14 may be taken or made up until the final class day of the semester.
You will not have the opportunity to make up DB work.

I do understand that life can sometimes get in the way of a semester. Please notify ALL of your professors of any life-changing events and allow us to try and accommodate your needs as best we can.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

Students are expected to maintain online and classroom decorum that includes respect for other students and the instructor, prompt and regular attendance/participation, and an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the education opportunity.

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.

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.