



RANGER COLLEGE  
RANGER, TEXAS

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COURSE SYLLABUS

**American Music**

**MUSI 1310**

**3 credit hours**

**INSTRUCTOR:**

**Brandi Brauker**

## MUSI 1310

INSTRUCTOR: Brandi Brauker  
EMAIL: bbrauker@rangercollege.edu

### **I. Texas Core Curriculum Statement of Purpose**

Through the Texas Core Curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world, develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world, and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning.

### **II. Course Description**

A general survey of various styles of music in America. Topics may include jazz, ragtime, folk, rock, and contemporary art music.

### **III. Required Background or Prerequisite**

None

### **IV. Required Textbook and Course Materials**

Jean Ferris. *America's Musical Landscape 7<sup>th</sup> edition*. ISBN 978-0-07-802512-9.

Other readings, videos and recording will be made available through Blackboard under course materials. In addition, students will need to have access to youtube.com for recordings and other examples.

### **V. Course Purpose**

Courses in this category focus on the appreciation and analysis of creative artifacts and works of the human imagination. Courses involve the synthesis and interpretation of artistic expression and enable critical, creative, and innovative communication about works of art.

### **VI. Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Identify the elements, styles, and musicians representative of music within the chosen style(s).
2. Analyze the elements and structures of music using appropriate terminology.
3. Critically evaluate the influence of social, political, technological, and/or cultural ideas on the chosen musical style(s).
4. Articulate an informed personal reflection of the chosen musical style(s).

## VII. Core Objectives

This course meets the following of the six Core Objectives established by Texas:

- Critical Thinking Skills (CT)** – Creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis; evaluation and synthesis of information
- Communication Skills (COM)** – effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
- Empirical and Quantitative Skills (EQS)** – The manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- Teamwork (TW)** – The ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- Social Responsibility (SR)** – Intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
- Personal Responsibility (PR)** – The ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

## VIII. Methods of Instruction

This class will use multiple methods of instruction including: lecture, video, audio recording, discussion and other methods as applicable to the situation.

## IX. Methods of Assessment

- 1) **Weekly Blackboard Quizzes (15%) (CT,SR):** The quizzes can be found in the course content folder marked with the dates of that particular week. These must be completed by Friday at 11:59 pm each week. Students will be able to take each quiz up to 2 times during the week it is available. Students may use books or notes during the quiz. These quizzes will not be reopened or allowed to be done late.
- 2) **Discussion Board/Activities (20%) (CT,COM,TW, SR):** This will consist at least four discussion board posts per week. Each week, there will be several questions to which students may respond. The first two posts are due by Wednesday at 11:59 pm. These will consist of a response to one of the questions (that should be at least one paragraph in length) and a response to another student's post. The second two posts will be done between Wednesday at 11:59 pm and Friday at 11:59 pm whereby each student is required to respond to others' comments. The responses to other students' posts should

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be a well-thought out response and should either support or contrast their classmate's position. This should be more than "I agree" or any other one or two word responses. There are small extra credit opportunities for students that are active in the discussion and contribute in a meaningful way above their required postings.

- 3) **Unit Tests (10%) (CT,CR):** The dates for these can be found in your course calendar. They cover the material from one of the five units covered in the course. They are mostly multiple choice with a few possible listening examples and responses.
- 4) **Drop The Needle Tests (5%) (CT):** The name is taken from the way tests of this kind used to be administered: a needle would fall on a record and a student would have to identify the piece etc. This course will use a modified version of this. On Blackboard can be found a playlist of 20 pieces representing broadly the different kinds of music covered in the course. During the first test, students will be tested on the identification of only the first half (10 pieces) with the final exam having questions based on any of the 20. This goes beyond rote memorization. Students should be familiar with the titles and composer (when provided of a list of possible choices), but even more importantly, be able to use terminology and listening skills gained in class to address issues such as: style, period, instrumentation, interesting compositional techniques, etc.
- 5) **Written Assignments (20%) (CT,COM,):** There are three written assignments for the course. In these assignments, students are asked to use correct terminology and identify musical elements such as meter, tonality, form, etc. In addition, students are to use this information to make a well-reasoned response to how they feel about the piece of music. Students will submit these papers through Safe-Assign on Blackboard to check for plagiarism.
- 6) **Exams (30%) (CT):** There will be two exams in the course: a midterm and final. The midterm will cover material from the first day until the exam. The final will technically be accumulative but will focus more on material from the midterm to the final exam. These exams are typically multiple choice with a few short responses. However, students should be aware that the multiple choice questions will go beyond just the simple memorization of facts but will ask the students to synthesize conclusions based on the knowledge from the semester.

Weekly Blackboard Quiz	20%
Class Participation (Discussion)	20%
Drop the needle tests	10%
Written Assignments	20%
Exams	30%

Grading scale: A = 90-100%    B = 80-89    C = 70-79    D = 60-69    F = Below 60

### **X. Course/Classroom Policies**

***Attendance:*** As this is an online course, attendance is crucial and will be visible in completed work.

Make up work will only be available in circumstances at the discretion of the instructor. If a student is absent for a long period of time due to illness, family death, etc., they must let the instructor know immediately.

***Student Behavior:*** Students are expected to be respectful of the instructor and each other. This includes participation in the discussion boards. Not being respectful to students or instructor will result in disciplinary action and a lowered grade.

***Student Preparedness:*** Students are expected to go through all of the required materials each week. It is encouraged for students to take notes for reference (they may be used on the midterm and final exams).

**XI. Course Outline/Schedule**

Unit:	Dates:	Subjects:	Major Due Dates*
1	Week One	Introduction to Music	Discussion Board only <b>(there will be a discussion board assignment due every week after)</b>
	Week Two	Basic Musical Terms and Instruments	Week 1 Reading Quiz Week 2 Reading Quiz Plagiarism Quiz Syllabus Quiz
2	Week Three	Native American and Colonial Music	Week 3 Reading Quiz Written Assignment One
	Week Four	Religious Music and Concert Music of the 18 <sup>th</sup> Century	Week 4 Reading Quiz
	Week Five	Rise of Pop Culture and Pop Music	Unit 2 Test
3	Week Six	The Blues	Week 6 Reading Quiz
	Week Seven	Jazz	Week 7 Reading Quiz Written Assignment Two
	Week Eight	Midterm Week	Drop the Needle #1 Midterm Exam
4	Week Nine	Early Rock and Roll	Week 9 Reading Quiz
	Week Ten	Pop Music	Week 10 Reading Quiz
	Week Eleven	Hip Hop	Unit 4 Test
5	Week Twelve	Music For Film	Week 12 Reading Quiz
	Week Thirteen	American Musical Theater	Week 13 Reading Quiz
	Week Fourteen	American Concert Music	Written Assignment Three Unit 5 Test
	Week Fifteen	Final Exam Review	None
<b>RANGER COLLEGE EXAM WEEK</b>			

\*Please notice that all work is to be turned in by the Friday of each week by 11:59 p.m.

Course schedule is subject to change based on particular circumstances that may arise during a semester.

**XII. Non-Discrimination Statement**

Admissions, employment, and program policies of Ranger College are nondiscriminatory in regard to race, creed, color, sex, age, disability, and national origin.

**XIII. ADA Statement**

Ranger College provides a variety of services for students with learning and/or physical disabilities. Students are responsible for making initial contact with the Ranger College Counselor, Gabe Lewis (glewis@rangercollege.edu). It is advisable to make this contact before or immediately after the semester begins.