



RANGER COLLEGE
RANGER, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS

American Music

MUSI 1310

3 credit hours

INSTRUCTOR:

Ted Brauker

MUSI 1310 – Spring

INSTRUCTOR: Ted Brauker

EMAIL:tbrauker@rangercollege.edu

OFFICE: Music Building south-west corner

PHONE:254-267-7003

HOURS: Tuesday 9:15-11:00, Wednesday 12:00-1:30 and 2:50-4:30, Thursday 9:00-12:00 and 1:30-3:30, Friday (by appointment) 9:00-12:00.

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 7th 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, in-class group work, discussion and other methods as applicable to the situation.

IX. Methods of Assessment

- 1) **Weekly Blackboard Quiz or Activity (15%) (CT,SR):** The purpose of this assessment is to gauge how well prepared a student is to actively participate with their fellow students in class discussion and activities. The quiz or activity can be found in the course content folder marked with the dates of that particular week. These must be completed by Friday 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) **In Class Activities/Participation (20%) (CT,COM,TW, SR):** This will consist of short group discussions, short written or aural responses, or pop quizzes or other activity as appropriate. A student must be present on the day that activity takes place in order to receive points. Students who have a college approved absence will receive an exemption on such points. However, be aware that this will decrease the total number of possible points a students would receive in this category.
- 3) **Test and Quizzes (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 typically a few open ended short essay question and/or multiple choice. In addition, test may include listening examples to help prepare for the Drop the Needle Test.
- 4) **Drop The Needle Test (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 exam students will be tested on identification of 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, identify musical elements such as meter, tonality, form. 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. Typically, these exams will consist of essay questions. Students should be aware that 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. The last week of classes students will aid the instructor in writing some of the possible questions for the exam.

MUSI 1310 – Spring

Weekly Blackboard Quiz	15%
Class Participation	20%
Test and Quizzes in Class	10%
Drop the needle tests	5%
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: Students are expected to attend class on time. Coming to class late can disrupt the instructor and fellow classmates. Entering class later than 5 minutes will result in an absence. Entering class before 5 minutes has passed and after attendance has been taken will result in a tardy. As per the Ranger College attendance policy, missing six classes will result in failure of the course.

Make up work from class will only be available for those with a college excused absence (i.e. absent for sporting event or other school function). Make up work may be available in other 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. As many of the assignments are due on Blackboard and outside of class time, the students must check Blackboard regularly. Every attempt will be made to stay with the course calendar so students should use that as their primary guide for due dates test etc.

Student Behavior: Students are expected to be respectful of the instructor and each other. This includes participation in class and attention to fellow classmates. Not being respectful to students or instructor will result in having to leave the classroom.

Student Preparedness: Students are expected to bring all required materials to class. This includes a writing utensil, paper and textbook. This also includes checking Blackboard regularly for supplemental materials and assignments. Notes are expected to be taken on paper and brought to each class for reference.

Technology (phones, computers, tablets): Technology is allowed in class but only during certain class activities. The instructor will let students know when it is acceptable to have technology out. If a student is on their phone or device when the instructor has not allowed its use, they will be given one warning. After the warning the student will be asked to leave the classroom, and will receive an absence from class and will lose any points that were available for the day.

XI. Course Outline/Schedule

Unit:	Dates:	Subjects:	Major Due Dates*
1	Week One	Introduction to Music	None
	Week Two	Basic Musical Terms and Instruments	Week 1 and 2 Reading Quizzes, 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 th 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 (last class period)
SPRING BREAK 3/12-3/16			
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 (last class period)
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 (last class period)
	Week Fifteen	Final Exam Review	None
RANGER COLLEGE EXAM WEEK			

*Please notice that all work turned in outside of class is due 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.