



**MUSI-1310-150-CL**  
**American Music**  
**Fall 2023**  
**Monday, Wednesday 11:00-12:20, F117**

**Instructor Information:** John Kiefer, [jkiefer@com.edu](mailto:jkiefer@com.edu), 409-933-8545

**Student hours and location:** F-118 office - Office (student) hours on door

**Required Textbook/Materials:**

The Beat Goes On: Popular Music in America, 5th Edition. Michael Campbell, Cengage, 2019

**Course Description:** A general survey of various styles of music of the Americas, including but not limited to jazz, folk, rock, and contemporary music. This course which meets the college's fine arts core requirement is open to all students. Prerequisite: TSI Reading 342 or equivalent development course with a grade of "C" or better.

**Course requirements:** 5 exams and a concert report

**Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:**

5 exams: 75%

Paper Assignment: 10%

Attendance/Participation: 15%

**Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy:** Homework assignments will receive a ten-point deduction for every class day they are late. Classroom assignments may not be made up. Tests must be made up within two class periods (one week) of the original test date. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor for the make-up test. Please note that the make-up test will be a different test than was originally given. **Extra Credit will be discussed in class.**

**Attendance Policy:** Students at College of the Mainland are expected to attend every session of all classes for which they are registered. Any absence or late arrival potentially lowers your grade.

**Communicating with your instructor:** ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means. Faculty may add additional statement requiring monitoring and communication expectations via D2L or other LMS

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Students will evaluate a given musical composition.	Critical Thinking	Discussion and Exam
2. Prepare a concert report	Communication	Paper
3. Show effective teamwork through participatory group activity	Teamwork	Classroom performance or discussion
4. Demonstrate awareness of concert decorum appropriate to the venue/occasion/culture	Social Responsibility	Discussion

**Academic Dishonesty:** Any incident of academic policy will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as cheating on exams is an extremely serious offense and will result in a **grade of zero** on that exam and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action.

**Student Concerns:** If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Paul Boyd [pboyd@com.edu](mailto:pboyd@com.edu) 409-933-8342.

**Course outline:**

- Week 1 Introduction,
- Week 2 Unit 1: A Matter of Style Unit 1 continued
- Week 3 Unit 2: Beginnings of Popular Music, Unit 3: Ragtime
- Week 4 Unit 3: Early Jazz and Blues, **EXAM 1**
- Week 5 Unit 4 Modern Era, Unit 5: The Swing Era
- Week 6 Unit 5: Swing, Unit 6: Country Blues
- Week 7 Unit 6: Hokum Blues and Gospel, Unit 7: Country
- Week 8 Unit 7 Folk and Bluegrass, **EXAM 2**
- Week 9 Unit 8: Latin Music, Unit 9: Musical Theatre and Bebop
- Week 10 Unit 10 Electric Blues Doo-Wop, Unit 11 Rock'n'Roll
- Week 11 Unit 11 continued
- Week 12 **EXAM 3**, Unit 12: Rock Revolution
- Week 13 Unit 12 continued, Unit 13 Rock/R&B After 1970
- Week 14 **EXAM 4**, Unit 14: Late 70's
- Week 15 Unit 17 Electronica and Rap, Unit 19 Alternative
- Week 16 **EXAM 5**

---

## Institutional Policies and Guidelines

**Grade Appeal Process:** Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook [https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student\\_Handbook\\_2023-2024\\_v2.pdf](https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2023-2024_v2.pdf). *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

**Academic Success & Support Services:** College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

**ADA Statement:** Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact Kimberly Lachney at 409-933-8919 or [klachney@com.edu](mailto:klachney@com.edu). The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

**Textbook Purchasing Statement:** A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a "W" grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week session is October 11. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 28. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is December 7.

**FN Grading:** The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

**Early Alert Program:** The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

**Resources to Help with Stress:**

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at [deanofstudents@com.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@com.edu) or [communityresources@com.edu](mailto:communityresources@com.edu).