EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION
MUSIC
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Music Department
FA / MUSI 3406 3.0 SECTION A
HISTORY OF GOSPEL MUSIC
FALL 2017 / WINTER 2018

Last Modified Date: 09/13/2017

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION
Explores the significant musical and non-musical contributions of African American gospel artists and the historical development of African American gospel music. This course is for both music majors and non-music majors who have an interest in the study of popular Western music. Pre-requisites: FA/MUSI 2201 3.00 and FA/MUSI 2202 3.00 or and FA/MUSI 2200 6.00, or permission of course director for non-majors/minors. Prerequisites: FA/MUSI 2200 6.00, FA/MUSI 2201 3.00 and FA/MUSI 2202 3.00

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INSTRUCTOR(S)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
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<tr>
<td>Burke, Karen M</td>
<td>Sec. A / LECT / F</td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES
Course: FA/MUSI 3406 3.0
Term: Fall 2017
Course Instructor: Karen Burke, ACE 355, 416 736-2100, ext. 77131 burkek@yorku.ca

Course Consultation Hours: By Appointment
Course Time and Location: Thursday 2:30 – 4:30 pm, ACW 008

FA/MUSI 3406 explores the development of African-American Gospel music from spirituals through to the 21st century with special emphasis on those developments from 1930 onwards. The course explores the musical, sociological, political and religious influences that contributed to the development of the various gospel music eras and styles. Using a variety of methods including lecture/discussion, required reading, student oral presentations, recorded musical examples and written responses, students will learn about the significant musical and non-musical contributions of African American Gospel artists.

This course is designed for those who have an interest in the study of popular Western music. Classes are held weekly and students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with Gospel music through independent listening.
Pre-requisites: FA/MUSI 2201 3.00, 2202 3.00, and FA/MUSI 2200 6.00, or permission of course director for non-majors/minors. Prerequisites: FA/MUSI 2200 6.00, FA/MUSI 2201 3.00 and FA/MUSI 2202 3.00

**Learning Outcomes**

The purpose of this course is to assist students in demonstrating a critical understanding of the development of Gospel music from spirituals to present day Gospel music. By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate the ability to discuss and write supported opinions with reference to course content and accredited resources;
- Characterize the elements of musical style found in the pre-Gospel, early Gospel, golden age and contemporary eras,
- Demonstrate an historical perspective showing the relationships between the music and the social, political and religious conditions of the times
- Identify the major composers and gospel artists of the various Gospel music eras, compare and contrast the contributions of key figures in the development of Gospel music with an emphasis on the early 20s to the present.

**Required Text**


**Recommended Reading**

*The following texts, books are recommended additional reading for the course:*


**Graded Assessment** (see Schedule below for due dates)

- Listening & Comprehension – Midterm 20%
- Final Exam (during exam period) 20%
Assignment #1 10%
Group Presentation OR Assignment #2 20%
Participation 10%
Formal Essay (due Nov. 30) 20%
TOTAL 100%

Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.

Last date to drop this course without receiving a grade: Nov. 10, 2017

CLASS SCHEDULE

September 7   Introduction to the World of Gospel Music
September 14  “How We Got Over”…from Africa to the Americas
September 21  Fisk Jubilee Singers; The Great Migration
September 28  Historic Gospel Era
October 5     The Dorsey Era/Assignment #1 Due
October 11    Gospel Quartets
October 19    Listening & Comprehension Test (20%)
October 21    Gospel Inter-Varsity Explosion Finale Concert (TCRH) – Optional

READING DAYS (Oct. 26-29) November 2  #1 Presentation Day / Assignment #2 Due November 9
November 2    Great Women of Gospel
November 16   #2 Presentation Day/ Essay Proposals Due
November 23   Great Men of Gospel
November 30   Gospel Family Legacies/Hand in Formal essay

NOTE: The Final Exam will be written sometime during the official exam period (Dec. 6-21, 2017).
Audio Samples

Students are encouraged to use on-line services such as Spotify, iTunes and YouTube to access Gospel music examples. Audio samples may also be provided through an on-line file, the link of which will be given to you in class. As well, you are encouraged to make use of a variety of media outlets (see provided list of media resources and attend Gospel concerts) when possible to provide context for our discussions.

For example, the Gospel Inter-Varsity Explosion (G.I.V.E) taking place in the Tribute Communities Recital Hall in the ACE on Saturday evening, Oct. 21 is an excellent opportunity to experience a live Gospel choir concert. Tickets are only $10 for students and available on-line or in person through York’s box-office.

Assignments and Evaluation (expanded)

Writing Assignment #1 (10%) – Individual - due October 5

The purpose of this assignment is to give students an opportunity to integrate the topics discussed up to that time and demonstrate their knowledge of the spiritual and sociological contexts and other significant precursors to Gospel music.

1. Using Wyatt Tee Walker’s text, Somebody’s Calling My Name as a backdrop, choose one of the topic sentences given and write a 3-4 page summary supporting your response.
2. Draw examples from Walker’s text and use your own thoughts, notes from our class lectures and your own research to provide references, contextualize and support your summary.

Please write the assignment using correct scholarly conventions. Clarity and precision of thought in written form is required on all assignments. Appropriate references must be properly documented. Exceptional grammar and spelling are expected. Please proof read your work before submitting.

Listening & Comprehension Midterm (20%) – October 19

Our Listening & Comprehension Midterm will evaluate awareness of styles, historical music eras, biographical artist information and content ‘unlocked’ by passages from our class list of Gospel music compositions. A list of the songs that will be included on the test will be provided to you in advance.

Using notes from class lectures, notes relating to the independent listening list and notes from our readings, you will also be expected to demonstrate your knowledge of the various Gospel artists, their related gospel songs and musical contributions and the sociological, political and religious influences, which have contributed to the evolution of Gospel music.

Presentations OR Assignment #2

NOTE: Half of the class will prepare in-class presentations and the other half will complete Assignment #2. Attending the G.I.V.E. concert event on Oct. 21, while not mandatory, will benefit all students. Pairs of students on October 5 will declare their presentation date and choice of Gospel artist (topic) from the list provided. On October 12, Assignment #2 on a single research question will be distributed. Group Presentations begin on November 2.
Class presentations and written assignments allow students the opportunity to focus on a specific artist and demonstrate their ability to apply the analytical skills that they have developed. Along with the final essay, these formats will offer a forum for students to pull together the various strands of the course and include opportunities critical analysis and well-supported responses.

**Presentations (20%) – Collaborative - November 2 and November 16**

Please complete this assignment in pairs. The contemporary Gospel artists chosen for study must be from the class list provided. Your presentation should include a slide show component and include answers to questions such as, “What contributions has this artist made to the development of Gospel music?”

Your presentation should be 15 minutes in length and provide helpful visual and audio aids along with a well-organized handout that clearly summarizes the highlights of your presentation. The class will be tested on the work you present.

**OR**

**Assignment #2 (20%) – Individual – due November 2**

This writing assignment will require access to research resources such as a reliable search engine and YouTube in order to gather the required information. You will be given a specific music sample and a list of questions to respond to in relation to it.

The assignment must be 3-4 pages, double-spaced with good attention to proper spelling, grammar and proper citation.

**Essay – Written Proposal and Formal Essay (20%): Proposal due November 16 and Essay due November 30**

This final written assignment is an opportunity for you to explore topics of interest based on information introduced in this course. It gives you the opportunity to analyze the music of significant composers such as Lucie Campbell or Charles Tindley more in-depth, and/or to do a comparative study between two significant Gospel artists who are the contemporaries of each other OR from two different eras, i.e. from the Golden Age of Gospel and present day.

The total mark for this written assignment is derived from a combination of:

1. a) Your essay PROPOSAL is due on or before November 16 and worth 5% of the overall mark for this paper. The proposal must be 1 page double-spaced in length and include a full description and rationale for your topic of choice. For complete marks, you must show evidence that you have had a preliminary look into the resources that you will use to complete this formal essay. The essay proposal is to ensure that your research topic is not too broad or too narrow.

2. b) This formal essay is due on or before November 30 and should be 8-10 pages in length, not including the required works cited and discography pages.

**IMPORTANT:** Since this is a music course, you must talk about the music relevant to your topic and/or your chosen Gospel artist(s). All papers must be accompanied by musical examples that are relevant to your topic and demonstrate breadth and evidence of research. **No more than 20%** of your examples may come from the class listening lists. **At the end of your paper, you MUST provide a track list on a separate page in a properly formatted discography and submit your musical samples on a USB key OR**
e-mail them on or before November 30 with the subject heading: ‘Your Name’ – ESSAY MUSIC EXAMPLES - 3406. NOTE: Only essays submitted on or before Nov. 30 may submit their music examples by email.

Additional Information

All papers must be handed in as a hard copy. E-mailed assignments will NOT be accepted (the only exception to this are the music examples provided for the formal essay)

Media Resources.

Check out www.sprlive.fm M-T from 7 - 8 pm for Joyful Noyze. Apps such as ‘TuneIN’ give you access to American gospel music stations such as Praise 102.7 in Atlanta, GA. You are also encouraged to listen to local radio stations CIUT 89.5 FM The Gospel Music Machine on Sundays from 7-10 a.m., JOY 1250 AM’s REFLECTIONS M-F from 8-10 p.m. The Rush M-F from 4:30 – 6 p.m. AND Gospel Praise on Sundays from 5-8 p.m. to get your ear accustomed to gospel music and to listen for information on GTA gospel concerts. Also, visit the Toronto Mass Choir website for their specific concert info: www.tmc.ca and join the mailing list for gospelconnection.ca for regular announcements of GTA Gospel concerts.

Academic Policies / Information

The Senate Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy (ASCP) provides a Student Information Sheet that includes:

- York's Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures / Academic Integrity Web site
- Access/Disability
- Ethics Review Process for Research Involving Human Participants
- Religious Observance Accommodation
- Student Code of Conduct

Additional information:

- Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities
- Alternate Exam and Test Scheduling
- Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy

The Senate Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy stipulates that (a) the grading scheme (i.e. kinds and weights of assignments, essays, exams, etc.) be announced, and be available in writing, within the first two weeks of class, and that, (b) under normal circumstances, graded feedback worth at least 15% of the final grade for Fall, Winter or Summer Term, and 30% for ‘full year’ courses offered in the Fall/Winter Term be received by students in all courses prior to the final withdrawal date from a course without receiving a grade.

- Important University Sessional Dates (you will find classes and exams start/end dates, reading/co-curricular week, add/drop deadlines, holidays, University closings and more.

http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/index.htm

- “20% Rule”

No examinations or tests collectively worth more than 20% of the final grade in a course will be given during the final 14 calendar days of classes in a term. The exceptions to the rule are classes, which regularly meet Friday evenings or on Saturday and/or Sunday at any time, and courses offered in the compressed summer terms.
Many courses utilize Moodle, York University's course website system. If your course is using Moodle, click here to access it.

Moodle @ York University