EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION
MUSIC
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Music Department
FA / MUSI 3510 3.0 SECTION A
AFRICAN-AMERICAN POPULAR MUSIC
FALL 2019 / WINTER 2020

Last Modified Date: 08/09/2019

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION
This course surveys the history of African-American popular music from World War II to the 1980s, considering R through music analysis and critical readings. Issues include roots in pre-WWII era; social/political contexts; impact of the music industry, technology and mass media. Prerequisites: FA/MUSI 1000 6.0, FA/MUSI 1200 9.00, FA/MUSI 2000 6.00 (or FA/MUSI 2201 3.00 and FA/MUSI 2202 3.00) and FA/MUSI 2200 6.00.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bowman, Robert M J</td>
<td>Sec. A / LECT / F</td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION
The course surveys the history of African-American popular music from spirituals to hip hop, focusing on the continued role of black music in the quest for survival, respect, dignity and equal citizenship. Issues explored include musical roots and connections; social/political contexts specifically the Civil Rights and Black Power eras; the impact of the music industry, technology and mass media.

Topics and Concepts

REQUIRED TEXTS
Additional readings will be assigned as the course progresses and will be available on reserve at the Scott Library and/or on Moodle.

OUTLINE OF TOPICS (please note this is a GUIDE ONLY to the week by week lecture topics and readings for this course. With the exception of test dates, it will not necessarily be strictly followed)

Class Dates
Sept 10  Introduction—“Try a Little Tenderness” and how meaning is encoded in music
Available through the library as an e-resource
Sept 17        Notion of African retentions, work songs, field holler, etc.
               Spirituals, Sanctified singing, Beginnings of gospel.
               **Reading:** Werner pp. 1-15; 28-31; 94-100
               Available through the library as an e-resource

Sept 24    Notion of African retentions, work songs, field holler, etc. continued

Oct 1        WW I, early blues, the Labour movement and the folk revival
               **Reading:** Werner pp. 65-72
               Available through the library as an e-resource

Oct 8        WW I, early blues, the Labour movement and the folk revival continued

Oct 15       NO CLASS—READING WEEK

Oct 22       Mid term test

Oct 29       WW II, The Rise of Black Radio, Post War Blues and R&B
               **Reading:** http://www.newworldrecords.org/liner_notes/80261.pdf
               **Black Radio**
               https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/collection/archives-of-african-american-music-and-culture?projectId=black-history-and-

Nov 5        Jazz
               Available through the library as an e-resource
               Available through the library as an e-resource.
               **Reading:** Werner: pp. 125-136

Nov 8        LAST DATE TO DROP COURSE WITHOUT RECEIVING A GRADE
Nov 12         Sounds and Songs of the Civil Rights Movement

**Reading:** Branch: Chapters 1-10; 11-18


Available through the library as an e-resource.

Nov 19         Soul/Funk

**Reading:** Werner pp. 15-27; 31-37; 40-44; 56-64; 72-78; 197-202; 121-125; 116-120; 144-151; 165-171; 172-173


Available through the library as an e-resource

**Reading:** Werner: pp. 103-109; 109-116; 138-144; 226-230; 183-186; 187-191; 191-196


Available through the library as an e-resource

Nov 26         Word/Sound Poetry, Black Arts Movement, Africa as the Motherland

**Reading:** Werner: pp. 158-164

**Reading:** “The Black Arts Movement” by Larry Neal
http://www.nathanieturner.com/blackartsmovementlarryneal.htm

Dec 3           Hip Hop, Black Rock Coalition

**Reading:** http://www.villagevoice.com/2004-12-28/news/hiphop-turns-30/

**Reading:** https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/mar/13/black-lives-matter-beyonce-kendrick-lamar-protest

**Reading:**

Dec 10          Take Home exam due

Graded Assignments:

- **Test 1 October 22, 2019** Lectures/Readings/Listening 35%
- **Other Assignments** Presentations and/or Short Essay(s) 30%
- **COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM—TAKE HOME—Dec 10, 2019** Lectures/Readings/Listening 35%

**TESTS AND FINAL EXAMINATION**

All exam questions are based on the lectures, films, assigned listening examples, and assigned readings.

1. The first exam will include short-answer questions and/or short essays.
2. All make-up tests are **written examinations** (read: short answers/essay)
3. Final Exam grades will not be posted.

Please do not call the music office to inquire about grades.
Grading, Assignment Submission, **Lateness Penalties and Missed Tests**

**Grading:** The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

(For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar – http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/calendars/2011-2012/academic/grades/)

**Additional Information**

**Youtube videos that may be of interest:**

- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLG_OyZ2H7A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLG_OyZ2H7A) 2:06 Marcus Garvey
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFhksjZYTds](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFhksjZYTds) 9 min. Marcus Garvey speech
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tHaxG-TY8XU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tHaxG-TY8XU) The Story of Marcus Garvey: Look for Me in the Whirlwind
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smEqnnklfYs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smEqnnklfYs) 17 min. MLK Washington speech August 28, 1963
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vGRmX2gcs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vGRmX2gcs) 2:18 PBS doc on Malcolm X: Make It Plain
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t9AmuYqiRyg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t9AmuYqiRyg) 2:10 Malcolm X speeches and interviews
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_TchoKJrvFQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_TchoKJrvFQ) Fannie Lou Hamer audio only 1964 Democratic Party Convention Speech 8 min
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10I6HtdJnWE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10I6HtdJnWE) All music performances during March on Washington August 28, 1963

**DVDs/Videos in the Sound and Moving Image Library:**

- Marcus Garvey: Look for me in the Whirlwind—90 minutes DVD 5997 (also on youtube.com listed above)
- King: A Filmed Record From Montgomery to Memphis—3 hr. directed by Sidney Lumet DVD 11899 and 11900
- Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin—83 minutes DVD 11063
- Paul Robeson: The Tallest Tree in Our Forest—85 minutes VHS cassette

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**Many courses utilize Moodle, York University’s course website system. If your course is using Moodle, click here to access it.**

*Moodle @ York University*