EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION
MUSIC
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Music Department
FA / MUSI 3406 3.0 SECTION M
HISTORY OF GOSPEL MUSIC
FALL 2019 / WINTER 2020

Last Modified Date: 01/16/2020

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. Prerequisites: FA/MUSI 2000 6.00 (or FA/MUSI 2201 3.00 and FA/MUSI 2202 3.00) and FA/MUSI 2200 6.00, or permission of Instructor for non-majors/minors.

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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>Burke, Karen M</td>
<td>Sec. M / LECT / W</td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

History of Gospel Music
Course: FA/MUSI 3406 3.0
Term: Winter 2020
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, ACE 237
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 historical 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
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 Gospel 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 Class Schedule below for due dates)
Mid-Term 20%
Final Test 15%
Assignment #1 15%
Group Presentation OR Assignment #2 20%
Participation 10%
Formal Essay (due on or before April 6) 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: March 13, 2020

CLASS SCHEDULE
January 9 Introduction to the World of Gospel Music
January 16 “How We Got Over” (from Africa to the Americas)
January 23 Spirituals/The Great Migration
January 30 Historic Gospel Era/Gospel Hymn Writers
February 6 The Fisk Jubilee Singers/Assignment #1 Due
February 13 Mid-Term (20%)
------------------------------READING WEEK (Feb. 15-21)
February 20-23* PowerUp Workshop Weekend & *Finale Concert – Optional
February 27 The Dorsey Era
March 5 Presentation Day/Assignment #2 Due
March 12 Gospel Quartets
March 19 Great Women of Gospel/Essay Proposal Week
March 26 Gospel Gents
April 2 Final Test
NOTE: The Final Essay will be due on or before April 6 (last day to submit work)
Audio Samples
Students are encouraged to use streaming services such as Spotify, Apple Music, YouTube or
other streaming resources to access Gospel music examples. Audio samples will 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 Internet and media outlets (see provided list of media resources) and
attend Gospel concerts/events whenever possible to provide context for our discussions.
For example, PowerUp 2020 is a 3-day workshop weekend held at York University from
Thursday evening, Feb. 20 to end of day on Sat., Feb. 22 and offers more than 20 different
Gospel music workshops including voice, instrumental, dance and Gospel song writing. All
registrants can be part of the workshop mass choir rehearsals learning songs in preparation for the
finale concert held on Sunday, Feb. 23. Can’t come the whole weekend? You may wish, then,
to just attend the Finale concert to experience that powerful sound in person! NOTE: Registration
information is available through www.powerupgospel.ca and single concert tickets are available
on-line through www.tmc.ca.
Assignments and Evaluation (expanded)
Writing Assignment #1 (15%) – Individual - due February 6
The purpose of this assignment is to give students an opportunity to integrate the topics discussed
and readings up to that time and to demonstrate their knowledge of the spiritual and sociological
contexts and other significant precursors to Gospel music.
1. Using the first four chapters of “Somebody’s Calling My Name” by Wyatt Tee Walker as
a backdrop, choose one of the topic sentences given and write a 3-4 page summary
supporting your responses to the topic sentences which will be given to you.
2. Draw examples from Walker’s text, 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, formatting and spelling are expected. Please proof read your
work before submitting.
Mid-Term (20%) – February 13
This major Listening & Comprehension Test 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 various Gospel artists, their related gospel songs, musical contributions and the sociological, political and religious influences which have contributed to the evolution of Gospel music.

Group Presentation (20%) – Collaborative – March 5

Please complete this assignment in pairs. The contemporary Gospel artists chosen for study must be from the class list provided or otherwise approved. 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? A full description of the assignment will be distributed.

Your presentation should be no more than 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 and must be available to the class at the same time as your presentation.

The class will be tested on the work you present.

OR Assignment #2 (20%) – Individual – due March 5

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 4-5 pages in length (not including the title page), double-spaced with good attention to proper spelling, grammar and proper citation.

Presentation OR Assignment #2 – March 5

NOTE: 4 pairs of students will prepare in-class presentations and the remainder of the class will complete Assignment #2 (due the same day). Attending the PowerUp concert event on Sunday, Feb. 23, while not mandatory, will benefit all students. Pairs of students, will declare by lottery on February 6, their presentation date and choice of Gospel artist (topic) from the list provided. Assignment #2 - on a single research question - will be distributed to the rest of the class for completion on February 6. Group Presentations will be on March 5.

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 for critical analysis and well-supported responses

Written Proposal and Formal Essay (20%): Proposals due between March 19 and March 26. Final Essay due on or before April 6

This final written assignment is an opportunity for you to explore and research topics of interest based on information introduced in this course. It gives you the opportunity to:

• Analyse and discuss the music of significant composers such as Lucie Campbell or Charles Tindley more in-depth
• Research topics such as ‘Music of the Civil Rights Movement’ or a Gospel artist not covered in depth during the term
• Complete a comparative study between two significant Gospel artists from two different eras, i.e. from the Golden Age of Gospel and present day.
• Research another approved topic directly related to this Gospel Music course

The total mark for this written assignment is derived from your proposal and your formal essay.

a) Your essay PROPOSAL is due anytime between March 19 and March 26. 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 and that the scope of your resources is wide.

b) Please email your proposal to me at burkek@yorku.ca with YOUR NAME and the words ‘HGM ESSAY PROPOSAL’ as the subject heading. It is advisable to wait until at least the lecture after March 19 to confirm your final essay topic.

c) Your formal essay is due on or before April 6 and should be 8-10 pages in length, not including the required works cited and discography pages.

IMPORTANT: Since this is a music course, for your final essay, you must discuss the actual music relevant to your topic and/or your chosen Gospel artist(s). All papers must be accompanied by musical samples 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 of all music samples on a separate page AND ALSO submit your musical samples in a separate email to burkek@yorku.ca on the same day that you hand in your essay.

Additional Information

All papers must be handed in as a hard copy. E-mailed assignments will not be accepted. The only exceptions are your ESSAY PROPOSAL and the DISCOGRAPHY for your final essay.

Media Resources

Check out www.sprlive.fm, Tuesdays from 7-9 pm for Joyful Noyze. Apps such as ‘TuneIN’ give you access to Gospel music programmes and stations such as Mind, Soul and Spirit, CKUT 90.3 FM (Montreal, PQ) and Praise 102.7 (Atlanta, GA). You are also encouraged to listen to local Gospel radio programmes such as CIUT 89.5 FM The Gospel Music Machine on Sunday mornings from 7-10 a.m. and on Sundays from 5-9 pm, Powerhouse Radio with DJ Prosper on JOY 1250 AM 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 in general.

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

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

Moodle @ York University