

## Syllabus

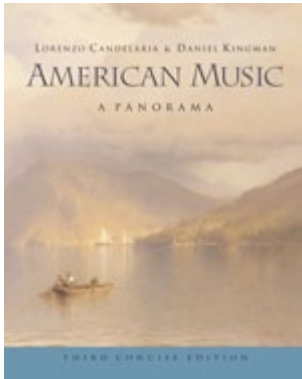
Music of America  
MUHI 1108 AA

Monday & Wednesday, 2:30-3:45

Instructor: Robert E. Thomas, Ph.D.

Email: [REDACTED]

### Required Course Materials



American Music: A Panorama, 3<sup>rd</sup> Concise Edition (Candelaria/Kingman)  
4-CD set to accompany textbook

### Description

An introduction to the musical, historical, and socio-cultural development of folk-ethnic, popular, and classical music within the United States from the 18<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> century through readings, discussions, guided listening sessions, and video.

### Objectives

- Identify and distinguish the three broad streams of American Music
- Identify and articulate the historical and socio-cultural context of the various styles of American folk music
- Trace the development of various popular styles of American music, both sacred and secular, from their cross-cultural roots
- Identify and analyze the various processes by which American composers of classical music create an indigenous American classical sound
- Recognize and discuss the role of American music as being intricately connected with and supportive of the larger American society
- Recognize the presence and influence of American music within the broader global society
- Articulate how a piece is American

Students should be able to continually demonstrate competency with all assigned material.

## Procedures

Classes will consist of both lectures and listening sessions. Students will be given reading and listening assignments each week and are expected to complete them prior to the next class. Students are advised to set aside a substantial amount of time for the listening assignments.

## Attendance

Attendance is very important. There will be material covered which will not necessarily be in the reading assignments. Students will be responsible for knowing this additional material. In addition, all quizzes and texts include a listening component. This means that, with the exception of an extraordinary circumstance, make-up exams will not be given. If a class is missed, please contact the professor or a classmate to stay current with all assignments.

Three or more undocumented absences (documentation must be provided by the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs) will lower a student's final grade by one letter. Three occasions of tardiness or early departure are equivalent to one absence.

## Blackboard and Email

The University provides all students with a college email address. This college email address will be used for all correspondence, and Blackboard will be used to post any class announcements, other pertinent information, and additional course materials. Students should check Blackboard on a periodic basis.

## Concert Attendance

Students are required to attend one (non-pop) concert of American Music. Students will be required to provide a program and a three page (double-spaced) concert report. There are free concerts offered on campus (e.g., *West Point Jazz Knights* concert on Tuesday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 in SOPAC).

## Grading

Student participation and progress through the semester will be an important factor in the grade. Any work that is handed in must be **very neat** (sloppy work will not be accepted). Pages must be clipped or stapled together. **Absence from class is not an excuse for not completing assignments.**

There will be a Midterm, a Final Exam, and a Research Paper in addition to regular reading assignments.

Late work will not be accepted.

## Research Paper and Oral Presentation

- Research Paper Topic due Monday September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Submit on 3x5 card (with your name).
- Annotated Bibliography due Monday October 6<sup>th</sup>. Must be typed.
- Paper due Monday November 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Oral Presentations on Wednesday December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Monday December 8<sup>th</sup>, and Friday December 12<sup>th</sup> (final exam date) if necessary.

## Grading Scale

Quality Points	Letter Grade	Numerical Points
4.00	A	95-100
3.67	A-	92-94
3.33	B+	88-91
3.00	B	84-87
2.67	B-	80-83
2.33	C+	76-79
2.00	C	72-75
1.67	C-	68-71
1.33	D+	64-67
1.00	D	60-63
0.00	F	0-59

## Grading Percentage Breakdown

Attendance/Punctuality	Mandatory
Concert Attendance & Report	25%
Research Paper/Oral Presentation	25%
Mid-Term Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%

## Electronic Devices

Turn off your mobile phone prior to the commencement of class. Do not use any electronic device other than your laptop. Only use your laptop for the purpose of taking notes.

## Tentative Course Outline

<u>Week #</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Week 1	Introduction and Orientation Forerunners	Read Author's Guide, Chapters 1 & 10
Week 2	Chapters 1 & 10	
Week 3	African American Tradition	Read Chapter 2
Week 4	American Indian Tradition Latino Tradition	Read Chapters 3 & 4 Research Paper Topic Due
Week 5	Folk Music	Read Chapter 6
Week 6	Country Music	Read Chapter 7 Annotated Bibliography Due
Week 7	Blues	Reach Chapter 8
Week 8	Mid-Term	
week 9	Rag-time and Pre-Jazz	Read Chapter 15 Research Paper Due
Week 10	Jazz Gospel	Read Chapters 16 & 11
Week 11	Rock	Read Chapter 9
Week 12	19 <sup>th</sup> century popular music Musical Theater	Read Chapters 12-14
Week 13	American Classical Music Tradition	Read Chapters 17-20
Week 14	American Classical Music Tradition Cont'd Oral Presentations	
Week 15	Final Exam (Friday December 12, 8:45-10:30am)	