

COURSE OUTLINE

MUSC-107

American Popular Music

3 Semester Hours

Fine Arts and Humanities Core

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

Open to all interested students, this course offers a panoramic view of the history of American popular music from the mid 1800's to the present. Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to identify and discuss each of the following aspects of American popular music: specific styles and style periods, pivotal compositions and composers, ethnic traditions which have been major contributors in the development and evolution of popular music, song forms and their contribution to style period development, influences on American history, and historical influences on popular music. (3 hours weekly)

Statement on General Education and Liberal Learning

A liberal education prepares students to lead ethical, productive, and creative lives and to understand how the pursuit of lifelong learning and critical thinking fosters good citizenship. General education courses form the core of a liberal education within the higher education curriculum and provide a coherent intellectual experience for all students by introducing the fundamental concepts and methods of inquiry in the areas of mathematics, the physical and natural sciences, the social sciences, the arts and the humanities, and composition. This course is part of the general education core experience at Howard Community College.

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Recognize and identify specific styles and style periods.
2. Identify specific groups and/or individuals and their contributions to pop music.
3. Analyze song forms and discuss their importance to the development of style periods.
4. Explain how history and world events helped to shape pop music and vice versa.
5. Recognize and discuss the pivotal compositions of pop music history.
6. Show the similarities and differences among the major artists of each music period.
7. Discuss the worldwide ramifications of the popularity of certain pivotal music artists, i.e., Louis Armstrong, Frank Sinatra, Elvis, the Beatles.
8. Discuss the importance of technology on popular music.
9. Identify and define specific terms relative to major style periods, i.e., blues, jazz, swing, pop, rock, funk.
10. Analyze one specific composition from each major style period deemed to be a "classic" of that genre.

Major Topics

- I. Background and Sources
- II. Birth of American Popular Music

- Post Civil War Music
- Ragtime
- Blues
- III. Popular Song and Dance
 - Jazz through 1960
 - Singing Styles and Songs
 - Musical Theatre
 - Country-Western Music
 - Latin Music
- IV. Roots and Early years of Rock
 - Rock Music
 - Other Genres in the Rock Era

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

Final grades will be based on exams, written assignments and participation.

Other Course Information

This course is a Fine Arts and Humanities Core course and a Fine Arts, Humanities and Arts and Sciences elective.