

COURSE OUTLINE

MUSC-107 American Popular Music 3 Semester Hours

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)

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 Aclassic@ 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 attendance.

Other Course Information

Meets college definition for: Cultural Diversity. This course is a Fine Arts, Humanities and Arts and Sciences elective.