

# **COURSE OUTLINE**

**MUSC-108**

**African-American Music**

**3 Semester Hours**

**Fine Arts and Humanities Core**

## **HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

### **Description**

Open to all interested students, this course will examine the heritage of African-American music from the colonial era through the jazz age to the present. Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to identify the characteristic elements of African music, trace the development of the major idioms such as religious and ragtime music, identify important African-American composers and performers, and articulate the role of African-American music in ritual and ceremony, as transmitter of culture and as a social and political tool. (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. Discuss how music functions in African and American Diasporan ritual and ceremonies.
2. Describe the main characteristics of African music.
3. Classify selected African vocal devices.
4. Identify and classify selected African instruments and their Diasporan derivatives.
5. Discuss the social, political, and religious functions of music in African and Diasporan cultures and discuss how those functions effect him/her today.
6. Identify African retentions in African-Latin, African-Caribbean, and African-American music.
7. Offer an informed critique of live performances of Black music and musicians.
8. Summarize the contributions of Black music to the world of music, and in particular, the music of the United States.
9. Recognize major works of selected African-American composers.
10. Write a three-page paper relating course material to the current exhibits at the Museum of African Art.

## **Major Topics**

- I. British-American Tradition
- II. African-American Tradition
- III. American Indian and Hispanic Traditions
- IV. Music of the Civil War
- V. Minstrels
- VI. Black Folk Music
- VII. 1900-1923
- VIII. Blues (Country to City)
- IX. Rhythm and Blues and Soul - 1945
- X. Country/Western - (1920-1955)  
(1955-1990)
- XI. American Popular - (1960-1990)  
Song (1960-1990)
- XII. Big Band Swing Era
- XIII. Bee Bop and Jazz (1959-1990)
- XIV. Rock (1953-1964)  
(1964-1974)  
(1974-1990)

## **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.