

Music 111: Introduction to American Popular Music 3 Units

Modesto Junior College Spring Term 2012

Online Course

Mr. Richard Colla, Instructor

Use class internal email as a means of communication.

If unable to contact Mr. Colla within the class email system, call: Phone: 523-8941

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION: Survey course emphasizing the listener's perception and understanding of the elements of American Popular Music. Illustrations will cover Folk, Jazz, Musical Theatre and Rock styles of popular music. Field trips may be required.

REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS:

1. Text: Campbell, Michael. *Popular Music in America; The Beat Goes On, Third Edition*. Cengage Learning 2009. ISBN: 9780495505303
2. Companion Three-CD Set. ISBN 9780495566113

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Identify the sources of popular style.
2. Summarize the history of popular music.
3. Define the elements of popular style.
4. Describe the influence of popular styles upon each other.
5. Summarize the evolution of genres within a time span.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

The course will mostly follow the text, and is organized into 15 content modules (one for each week of the semester). Each content module will give you tasks as well as supplementary information.

DISCUSSION:

Each student will be required to interact in a discussion area within the course. Every Monday, there will be a group discussion topic left by the instructor in the **course content** area for that week. The goal of the discussion is to get everyone to interact regarding the content of the course. Please respond to the discussion topic as well as the responses of the other students. **The discussion postings must be completed during the week** (discussion postings for week one are due before week two begins (weeks in this class start on Mondays). Please use your best computer etiquette in the discussion area (crude or abusive language will not be tolerated). Each student posting to the discussion area will be given five points per week (75 point total for the course).

CONCERT ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT:

Two Concerts: The requirement for this class is to attend two concerts during this semester in which popular music is performed, **including written reviews. Reviews of concerts that took place before the current semester will not be accepted.** The concert requirement is based on the premise that music is an art that must be experienced, and live performance is important to the understanding of this aesthetic art of communication: a communion between audience, performer and composer. The concerts attended must be those performed by MJC performance organizations, CSU Stanislaus performance organizations or community or professional in nature. Genres of popular music including Jazz, folk, rock, musical theatre, country, to name a few, are all acceptable. If you are uncertain whether a performance would apply, please ask Mr. Colla in advance of your attending the performance. Concert reviews may be turned in anytime during the semester. **All reviews must be completed and turned in by April 20, 2012.** Each review is worth 25 points.

Reviews must be 2 pages typed and double-spaced. Please include information gained from the class lectures and textbook in your review. Comment on aspects of music such as Performance forces used (instrumentation), texture, form, style periods represented, staging and costumes (when it applies), etc. In

addition; make observations as to unique or unusual uses of music within the concert (rhythm, harmony, instrumentation, and so on).

FINAL ESSAY:

Each Student is required to write a final essay. The essay is worth 50 points and is due at the end of week fifteen of the course **April 20, 2011**. The topics and details of the essay will be presented during the semester. All students will be required to include a bibliography as well as proper documentation for scholarly writing. Students are encouraged to consult *The MLA Style Manual* by Walter S. Achtert and Joseph Gibaldi for information regarding the correct documentation and annotation of papers (available in the library).

EXAMS AND GRADING:

1. There will be a several 25-point quizzes (almost every week) covering the material from the textbook and course content.
2. Two concert reviews (as discussed above) will be worth 25 points each.
3. A final essay (as discussed above) will serve as the final exam in the class (50 points).
4. Class discussions will be worth 5 points per week (75 points total).

EVALUATION: Your grade will be determined by the percentage of possible points earned: 90% and above is an A, 80% and above is a B, 70% and above is a C, 60% and above is a D. Anything below 60% is a failing grade.

It is the responsibility of the student to read and abide by the requirements of this syllabus.