

BUTTE COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

MUS 5 - American Popular Music

3 Unit(s)

Prerequisite(s): NONE

Recommended Prep: Reading Level IV; English Level IV

Transfer Status: CSU/UC

51 hours Lecture

This course examines the development of popular music in America, from its African and European origins to the multitude of styles that exist today. Emphasis is on the historical and socio-economic factors that shaped this unique body of music. Through use of lecture, sound recordings, video and reading, students will develop a new awareness of the musical elements and stylistic continuity present in pop music.

II. OBJECTIVES

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

- A. Identify and describe the six basic elements that inform all music and how these elements are used in popular music.
- B. Recognize and identify the major styles present in popular music, and the prominent performers representative of the various styles.
- C. Recognize and discuss the diversity and inter-relationship of various styles.
- D. Explain the historical continuum and the socio-economic factors that helped shape popular music.

III. COURSE CONTENT

A. Unit Titles/Suggested Time Schedule

	Lecture	
<u>Topics</u>		<u>Hours</u>
1. Introduction to american popular music		3.00
2. Sources of American popular music		3.00
3. Minstrelsy, early gospel, brass band music, emergence of ragtime		3.00
4. Tin Pan Alley and the beginning of the modern music business		3.00
5. Jazz		3.00
6. Origins of Country Music and Blues		3.00
7. The roots of Rock n' Roll: Rhythm & Blues, gospel, electric blues		3.00
8. The dominant artists and labels of Rock, 1950-1962		3.00
9. Rock in the 1960's: The British "invasion", Black music, Folk music, Surf music, and the West Coast scene		4.00
10. The 1970's: Heavy metal, Art Rock, Glam Rock, Funk; Disco, New Wave		3.00
11. The emergence of Punk and its influence		3.00
12. Country music and Jazz in the Rock era		3.00
13. Reggae and other foreign influences		3.00
14. The 1980's: Megastars, Metal, and MTV		4.00
15. The 1990's: Grunge and the emergence of new technology		4.00

16. The new face of the music business

3.00

Total Hours

51.00

IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Lecture
- B. Group Discussions
- C. Collaborative Group Work
- D. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
- E. Multimedia Presentations
- F. Class discussion
- G. Student presentations

V. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Exams/Tests
- B. Oral Presentation
- C. Homework
- D. Final Examination
- E. Research Paper
- F. Concert Review

VI. EXAMPLES OF ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Reading Assignments
 - 1. Read the instructor-assigned textbook as well as any course handouts.
 - 2. Read the Encyclopedia of Popular Music or any other reference sources in preparation of a research paper.
- B. Writing Assignments
 - 1. Listen to an example of music from one of the various styles being studied and prepare a paper that analyzes the music for both stylistic influences as well as any the quality of the performance, and skill of the musicians.
 - 2. Select a topic of interest to you, and prepare a substantial research paper that considers the importance of the selected topic in the overall scheme of popular music history.
Examples: Louis Armstrong's impact on American Music; The impact of the Beatles on the Music industry.
- C. Out-of-Class Assignments
 - 1. Select a piece of music that interests you, listen to it, and prepare a short paper describing the music, and include some biographical information about the composer and performers
 - 2. Attend a concert of course-related music and prepare a report on your experience.

VII. RECOMMENDED MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION

Textbooks:

- A. Garofalo, R. . Rockin' Out: Popular Music in the U.S.A.. 5th Edition. Prentice Hall, 2011.

Materials Other Than Textbooks:

- A. Video recordings of performances and interviews used in class are also available in the Arts Resource Library

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