### **Course Title:**

**Exploring Music in the Modern World  
Course Code:** MUSD 201  
**Duration:** February 2028 – May 2028  
**Location:** Online / Hybrid format (Lectures + Discussion forums)

#### **Course Description:**

This course will explore the role of music in contemporary society, delving into its cultural, psychological, and social aspects. Students will analyze a variety of musical genres, learn about the influence of music technology, and study the impact of music in global movements. Through this course, students will not only expand their musical knowledge but also develop critical listening and analytical skills.

#### **Course Objectives:**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze and discuss key themes in modern music genres.
2. Understand the historical development of music technology.
3. Explore the psychological effects of music on human behavior.
4. Investigate the social and cultural impact of music across the globe.
5. Apply music theory basics to their personal music interests.

#### **Schedule & Topics:**

**Week 1 (Feb 1 - 4, 2028):** Introduction to Music in Society

* Overview of music's role across cultures and time periods.
* **Reading:** Chapter 1 from *The Global Soundscape*.
* **Activity:** Discussion forum on favorite genres of music.

**Week 2 (Feb 8 - 11, 2028):** The Evolution of Music Technology

* From vinyl records to streaming platforms.
* **Reading:** Article: *The Digital Revolution in Music*.
* **Activity:** Analyze the effect of technology on the music industry today.

**Week 3 (Feb 15 - 18, 2028):** Music & Emotion: The Psychological Impact

* How music influences mood, behavior, and cognition.
* **Reading:** Excerpt from *The Power of Music* by Elena M. Juncos.
* **Activity:** Group discussion on emotional responses to various songs.

**Week 4 (Feb 22 - 25, 2028):** Modern Genres: Pop, Hip-Hop, and Beyond

* In-depth exploration of 21st-century music trends.
* **Reading:** *The Rise of Pop and Hip-Hop in the 21st Century*.
* **Activity:** Create a playlist that captures the essence of modern music.

**Week 5 (Mar 1 - 4, 2028):** Music in Social Movements

* The influence of music in protest and activism.
* **Reading:** *Music as Resistance: The Soundtrack of Social Change*.
* **Activity:** Analyze a protest song and its cultural significance.

**Week 6 (Mar 8 - 11, 2028):** Global Soundscapes: Music Across Cultures

* The impact of world music on modern genres.
* **Reading:** *Cross-Cultural Influences in Contemporary Music*.
* **Activity:** Compare two genres influenced by global soundscapes.

**Week 7 (Mar 15 - 18, 2028):** Music and the Mind: Cognitive Benefits

* The relationship between music and cognitive development.
* **Reading:** *The Cognitive Science of Music*.
* **Activity:** Group project to explore music's role in education.

**Week 8 (Mar 22 - 25, 2028):** The Business of Music

* How the music industry functions in the digital age.
* **Reading:** *Music Industry Economics: The Digital Era*.
* **Activity:** Create a mock music business plan.

**Week 9 (Mar 29 - Apr 1, 2028):** Music and Identity

* The role of music in forming personal and collective identities.
* **Reading:** *Music and Identity in the 21st Century*.
* **Activity:** Write a reflection on how music shapes personal identity.

**Week 10 (Apr 5 - 8, 2028):** Final Project Work and Presentations

* Students will create a multimedia project that represents their learning over the course.
* **Activity:** Peer feedback on final projects.

**Week 11 (Apr 12 - 15, 2028):** Course Review and Final Presentations

* Presentations of final projects, course reflections, and open Q&A.
* **Final Exam:** A combination of short essays and a music analysis exercise.

#### **Grading Breakdown:**

* **Participation:** 15%
* **Weekly Assignments:** 30%
* **Mid-Term Project (Week 5):** 20%
* **Final Project and Presentation:** 35%

#### **Instructor:**

**Dr. Samuel Harper**Assistant Professor of Music Studies

* PhD in Musicology, University of California, Los Angeles
* Specialization: Modern music history, cultural impact of music, and music technology
* Email: sharper@university.edu
* Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (Online via Zoom)

#### **Teaching Assistants (TAs):**

**Jessica Lee**

* MA in Music and Culture, University of New York
* Focus: Music psychology and contemporary genres
* Email: jlee@university.edu
* Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (Online via Zoom)

**Ethan Clark**

* MA in Music Production, Berklee College of Music
* Focus: Music technology, production, and the business of music
* Email: eclark@university.edu
* Office Hours: Thursdays 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (Online via Zoom)