

Course Directors: Ray Williams, Karen Burke

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Course Description and Content:

This course explores in depth the range of African-American popular music that came into existence during the 1920's. Numerous styles and genres will be studied from various points of view (musicological, sociological & theoretical) and a wide variety of structural forms and musical techniques will be analyzed. The historical context as relates to the development of this music will be explored. The experiences of the personalities will also be studied in an effort to gain greater understanding of their artistic development.

Schedule: Classes meets on Wed. as follows: A: 8:30-10:30AM, B: n/a, C: 2:30-4:30PM

Required Text: Various readings may be suggested.

Requirements: Notebook, pen and ears.

Academic Honesty: Please note the Senate Policy on academic honesty found on the York website at <http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/legislation/senate/acadhone.htm>. Any form of cheating will result in a mark of zero.

Assignment Submission: All assignments are to be submitted directly to the instructor during class time. If this is not possible, you may submit your assignments to the Music Office in Accolade East Building 3rd Floor [371] before 3:00PM during working days. Make sure your assignment is time stamped by the Music Office staff.

Evaluation and Grading:

Listening Journal	30
Tests (in class "listening", context, terminology, analysis, genre)	40
Attendance, Effort & Participation	30

TOTAL	100
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Last Date to Drop without Academic Penalty: Feb 2, 2007

Topic Schedule and Due Dates:

Sep 6-13	Introduction: Terms, Early Blues, Jazz
Sep 20 – Oct 18	Icons: Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday, Nat King Cole, Ray Charles
Oct 25	Test 1 (10%)
Nov 1 – 29	Frankie Lymon & Doo Wop, Motown, Stax, James Brown, Aretha Franklin
Jan 3	Test 2 (15%)
Jan 10 – Feb 28	The 70s - TSOP, Funk, Disco, Gamble & Huff, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder
Jan 31	Listening Journal due (30%) [Due at the end of class]
Mar 7	Test 3 (15%)
Mar 14 – 28	Rap, Reggae, Wrap Up.

Listening Journal:

You are required to listen to African-American popular music performed by African-American artists and record information about this music in a Listening Journal. The Journal should be divided into two sections. The first must cover music up to and including 1969 and the second music between 1970 and 1990. The Journal may be hand written but it must be well presented. The Journal will consist of individual song listings for each song you listened to. You should write about your personal feeling about each song. There must be no duplicates i.e. same song by the same artist (these will result in mark deductions). There must be a table of contents. The Journal's pages must be numbered. The journal should explore a minimum of 150 songs and be at least 30 pages long. Entries should contain factual data about each song, which may include, but is not limited to: artist, song name, composer, release date, record label, chart peak position, etc. Plagiarism, especially cut/paste from the Internet, will result in deductions of up to 100%. The journal should not contain songs played in class (i.e. songs listed in bold in the song book).

Journals are due at the end of class on January 31, 2007. Every journal submitted late will result in a minimum 10% deduction – no exceptions. If you are unable to submit your journal in class, then it must be submitted to the Music Office at Accolade East Building 3rd Floor [Room 371]. Please ensure that your journal is time stamped to prove the date it was submitted.