

**Course Director:** Ray Williams

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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 and contribution.

**Schedule:** Class meets on Wed in **ACW 206**: Section A: 8:30-10:30 AM

**Recommended:** Movie "Why Do Fools Fall In Love" recommended.

**Requirements:** Notebook, pen and ears. Tests require pencil and eraser. This course has no text book.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor [371] before 3:00PM during working days. Assignments must be time-stamped by the Music Office reception personnel.

**Evaluation and Grading:**

Listening Journal [Minimum 150-song project, 123 days, no extensions]	30	[Due January 6, 2016]
Tests [in class "listening", context, terminology, analysis, genre]	40	[T1 = 10%, T2 = 15%, T3 = 15%]
Participation [15%], Attendance [10%] & Effort [5%]	30	

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**TOTAL** **100**

Last Date to Drop without Academic Penalty: February 5, 2016

**Topic Schedule and Due Dates:** *(These dates may change, check course website to confirm dates)*

2015	TOPIC	2016	TOPIC
16-Sep	Introduction to FA/MUSI-1520	<b>6-Jan</b>	<b>Listening Journal Due [30%]</b>
23-Sep	The Blues	6-Jan	Seventies 1 - Jackson 5, Marvin Gaye
30-Sep	Louis Armstrong	13-Jan	Seventies 2 - Curtis Mayfield, Isaac Hayes
7-Oct	Billie Holiday	<b>20-Jan</b>	<b>Test 2 [15%]</b>
14-Oct	Nat King Cole	27-Jan	Seventies 3 - Stevie Wonder, Gamble & Huff
21-Oct	Ray Charles	3-Feb	Seventies 4 - Ballads
<b>28-Oct</b>	<b>Test 1 [10%]</b>	10-Feb	Seventies 5 - Pre Disco
4-Nov	Doo Wop, Frankie Lymon	24-Feb	Disco 1 - Van McCoy, Donna Summer
11-Nov	Sixties 1 - Berry Gordy, Motown	2-Mar	Disco 2 - Sylvester, Boney M, Chic
18-Nov	Sixties 2 - The Supremes, HDH	9-Mar	Genesis of Rap
25-Nov	Sixties 3 - James Brown, Aretha Franklin	<b>16-Mar</b>	<b>Test 3 [15%]</b>
2-Dec	Sixties 4 - Stax, Jackson 5	23-Mar	Participation Marking   Journal Return

**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. You may not submit the Journal in a 3-ring binder and our advice is to keep the presentation businesslike but you are free to get creative and decorative if you want.

The Journal will consist of separate entries for each song you listen to. In these entries, you should write down your personal feeling about each song. There must be no duplicates entries [i.e. same song by the same artist] as these entries will result in mark deductions. There must be a table of content and the pages and songs must be numbered. The journal should explore a **minimum of 150 songs** and be at least **30 pages** long. Entries should list factual data about each song, which may include, but is not limited to: artist name, song name, composer, release date, record label and chart peak position. Plagiarism, especially cut/paste from the Internet, will result in deductions of up to 100%. The journal should not contain songs listed on the **exclusion list** located on the course website.

Journals are due at the end of class on **January 6, 2016**. The journal may not be submitted after this date. Any journal that is submitted after January 6, 2016 will receive a mark of zero – absolutely no exceptions. You have **123 days** to complete this assignment which is sufficient time.