

Montgomery County Community College  
 MUS 113  
 Music in American Culture  
 3-3-0

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Music in American Culture will examine various styles of music found in United States cultural history. Folk, fine art, and popular music examples drawn from diverse traditions will be examined on the basis of their intrinsic characteristics, as well as in connection with their social, economic, and political contexts.

**REQUISITES:***Previous Course Requirements*

- ENG 010A Basic Writing or ENG 011 Basic Writing II or ESL 011 ESL Basic Writing II
- REA 011 Fundamentals of College Reading or REA 017 Vocabulary and Reading Comprehensive Development II

*Concurrent Course Requirements*

None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Identify several diverse musical genres from a variety of cultural traditions in American history.	Lectures Readings Listening to Recordings Viewing and Discussion of Videotaped, Filmed, and Live Musical Events Participation in Classroom Discussions of Shared Musical Experiences Research Project	Written Tests Essay Assignments Homework Assignments
2. Explain how these musical genres and traditions relate to the social, historical, economic, and political milieu to which they belong.	Lectures Readings Listening to Recordings Viewing and Discussion of Videotaped, Filmed, and Live Musical Events Participation in Classroom Discussions of Shared Musical Experiences Research Project	Written Tests Essay Assignments Homework Assignments

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
3. Identify and explain the connections between music in today's American cultural fabric and the musical traditions and genres of earlier periods in America as well as those of other cultures.	Lectures Readings Listening to Recordings Viewing and Discussion of Videotaped, Filmed, and Live Musical Events Participation in Classroom Discussions of Shared Musical Experiences Research Project	Written Tests Essay Assignments Homework Assignments

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria.*

#### SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

- A. The course will begin with a survey of some of the many diverse musical traditions that exist in America. This will emphasize traditions/genres that were prominent in pre-19<sup>th</sup> century American culture.
  1. Native American Music
    - a. Music in Native American cultural tradition
    - b. Characteristics and categories
    - c. Native American music today
  2. Hispanic and Latin Music
    - a. Hispanic traditions in the American southwest
    - b. Latin influences in New Orleans and elsewhere
  3. African American Music
    - a. African traditions
    - b. Work songs and spirituals
  4. European Musical Traditions in Early America
    - a. Secular music – Ballads, dance music, concert and theater music
    - b. Sacred Music – Psalmody and the singing school tradition
- B. Following this, the course will be divided by historical period. Within each period a variety of topics will be introduced.
  1. Music in 19<sup>th</sup> Century America
    - a. Sacred Music – Shape note singing, camp meeting revivalism, the new spiritual tradition, urban revivalism and the birth of Gospel music
    - b. Secular Music – The concert stage, parlor songs, minstrelsy and early musical theater

2. Music in 20<sup>th</sup> Century America
  - a. Popular music: Jazz, blues, rhythm & blues, country, rock, gospel, and folk music
  - b. Musical Theater
  - c. Concert Music
  - d. Other musical traditions – Cajun, Zydeco, Asian, Scandinavian

LEARNING MATERIALS:

Candelaria. (2015). *American Music, A Panorama: Fifth Concise Edition*. Belmont, CA: Schirmer/Thomson Learning (with CD set).

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by: Andrew Kosciesza Date: 4/21/2003  
VPAA/Provost Compliance Verification: Dr. John C. Flynn, Jr. Date: 4/24/2003

Revised by: Andrew Kosciesza Date: 4/8/2013  
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D. Date: 4/11/2013

Revised by: Andrew Kosciesza Date: 12/28/2017  
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Date: 1/10/2018



*This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.*