PARKLAND COLLEGE

Course Information Form (CIF)

Course Code: MUS 123 (IAI F1 904)

Course Title: Introduction to American Music

Department: Arts, Media, and Social Sciences
PCS Code: 1.1 - Baccalaureate/Transfer
CIP Code: 50.0902
Repeatability: 0

Effective Date: Summer 2026

Credit Hours

Catalog Notation: 3-0-3
Credit Hour Distribution:

Lecture: 3	Lab: 0	Clinical: 0	**Total: 3**

General Course Information

Catalog Description

Introduction to music of the United States: religious music, folk influences, blues, gospel, country, rock, Broadway, ragtime, jazz, and fine art music studied within historical and cultural contexts. Focus on developing a critical understanding and enjoyment of music.

General Course Objectives

To give students an overview of different types of American music in historical and cultural contexts.

Minimum Placement Levels

English	Reading	Math
None	Placement out of CCS 098	None

Prerequisites

None

Methods of Evaluation

6-8 major exams; 6-8 listening quizzes (may be included within major exams), 1-2 oral reports with written component (or online equivalent). 3-4 writing assignments including 1-2 research papers (minimum 1000 words); participation in class and/or participation in discussion board. Writing assignments must comprise at least 40% of the grade in the course, and indicate that successful completion of formal writing assignments is necessary for successful completion of the course.

Instructional Materials and Additional Supplies

America's Musical Landscape, Ferris, Jean. McGraw-Hill Connect Access Card and Free Spotify playlist for listening examples (current edition).

Course Content

General Learning Outcomes (GLOs)

- Communication: Students will demonstrate the ability to read, write, listen, and speak effectively.
- Critical Thinking and Information Literacy: Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate perspectives, evidence, and implications, and to locate, assess, and use information effectively.

Course Segments and Student Learning Outcomes

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Early Folk Music: A) The Ballad - oral tradition and the ballad texts, tune sourced, lyrical songs, play-party games, and fiddle tunes; B) African music traditions and its relation to Black music in America - the spirituals, Black college choirs, the use of repetition, relation to gospel, the quartet; C) Secular folk music - cries, blues scale, form work songs	1. Demonstrate an understanding of the history and culture of the Anglo American folk tradition. 2. Relate characteristics of the African American folk tradition. 3. Listen to a variety of musical examples to identify characteristics of the musical styles.	3	0	0
Music in Native American Life: characteristics and instruments of Native American music, acculturation, influences from European and other cultures of Latin America	1. Demonstrate an understanding of and appreciation of Native American music within its cultural contexts.	3	0	0
Folk Music for Propaganda: The popularization of folk music; modern collecting, study, and thought in folk music; listening to Woody Guthrie, Dylan, and successors	1. Demonstrate an understanding of and appreciation for the impact of folk music on the life of the American society.	3	0	0
Early Religious Music: Psalmody in America, Calvinism, the Bay Song Book, the singing school tradition, compositions of William Billings, Shakers, the Moravians	1. Demonstrate an understanding of and appreciation for the contribution of early religious music in America.	3	0	0
Shape Note; Infusion of the Folk Element (Amazing Grace, Wondrous Love)	1. Demonstrate knowledge of the nature of religious music during and after the time of expansion.	3	0	0

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Country Music: A) Instruments, singing characteristics, and historical styles; B) Fundamental attitudes - love, death, religion, nostalgia, trains, events, dialect; C) Early recording and personalities, later commercialization	1. Explain the enduring characteristics of Country music.	3	0	0
Black Rhythm-and-Blues, White Country Music to Early Rock: Impact on recording and other commercial shock effects, British influence, the hybridization of rock with jazz and symphonic music, rock theatre	1. Analyze the beginnings of rock to show impact on and relationship with the recording industry and social attitudes of the time.	3	0	0
Broadway and the Popular Musical Stage: Pre-World War I, Gilbert and Sullivan influences, George Cohan, V. Herbert, Romberg, Show Boat to Tin Pan Alley, Big Bands and standards	1. Demonstrate an understanding of and appreciation for the three genres of American popular songs.	3	0	0
Minstrelsy: plantation music-making, caricature, Stephen Foster, Ragtime artists and composers, early brass funeral bands	1. Trace accurately the beginning of jazz.	6	0	0
Jazz: King Oliver's early recordings; beginnings of Chicago and NY styles; mid-America styles and bands; emergence of Bop, Cool, and Latin; Jazz of the third quarter-century - new directions, electronics	1. Demonstrate understanding of the major styles of Jazz within their historical settings, and be able to recognize the different style characteristics of Jazz.	6	0	0

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Concert Music: Francis Hopkinson and 18th century amateurism, Gottschalk, Theodore Thomas, Sousa, John Paine, Edward MacDowell, Aaron Copland, William Grant Still, Leonard Bernstein, Gershwin, Menotti, Barber, Charles Ives, Pauline Oliveros, William Schuman, Henry Cowell, John Cage, Terry Reily, Philip Glass, Gwyneth Walker	1. Discuss the contributions of famous American composers and musicians.	9	0	0

Total Contact Hours

Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
45	0	0