

Department	International College of Liberal Arts		
Semester	Fall 2026	Year Offered (Odd/Even/Every Year)	Even Years
Course Number	MUSC240		
Course Title	Music of the 20th Century		
Prerequisites	None		
Course Instructor	BLOW Michael	Year Available (Grade Level)	2
Subject Area	Interdisciplinary Arts: Music	Number of Credits	3
Class Style	Lecture	Language of instruction	English

(NOTE 1) Depending on the class size and the capacity of the facility, we may not be able to accommodate all students who wish to register for the course

Course Description	<p>Music of the 20th Century is a course covering developments in music throughout the 20th century, an era in which music, like art, fractured into a multitude of styles and ideas. Each week we will focus on a specific type of music to find out where it came from, who the important musicians and innovators were that developed it, and what it led to. A lecture by the professor will cover the important information regarding that week's style of music, and a student-led listening and discussion session will allow us to experience and analyze the music to discover its characteristics. In terms of music styles, the course focusses largely on Western music, including the Western classical and folk traditions, and African-American music – blues, gospel, jazz, soul, hip hop, and its development into rock and heavy metal. We will also explore some Reggae, Latin and Asian music.</p>
Class plan based on course evaluation from previous academic year	<p>Banning electrical devices during listening sessions and providing notepaper for students to record their observations of the music played worked well last time so that will be continued. Updating lectures to focus on fewer examples in greater depth.</p>
Course related to the instructor's practical experience (Summary of experience)	<p>Yes. Mike Blow has worked in and around music for many years, listening, writing, recording and playing. Music is the core interest of his creative and professional life, and is something he is passionate to share with others.</p>
Learning Goals	<p>Upon completing this course students should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) understand music as a constantly developing social construct, and the characteristics and chronology of some major 20th C. styles 2) be able to reflect on and discuss their work and contribution to projects 3) develop musical analysis skills 4) become more reflective, curious, and open-minded 5) share ideas and construct meanings together with others

iCLA Diploma Policy	DP1/DP3
---------------------	---------

iCLA Diploma Policy

(DP1) To Value Knowledge – Having high oral and written communication skills to be able to both comprehend and transfer knowledge

(DP2) To Be Able to Adapt to a Changing World – Having critical, creative, problem-solving, intercultural skills, global and independent mindset to adopt to a changing world

(DP3) To Believe in Collaboration – Having a disposition to work effectively and inclusively in teams

(DP4) To Act from a Sense of Personal and Social Responsibility – Having good ethical and moral values to make positive impacts in the world

Active Learning Methods	Flipped Classroom/Discussion, Debate/Group Work/Presentation				
More details/supplemental information on Active Learning Methods	An important part of this course is that students are required to research and present to the class a 10-song 'playlist' of music from a particular style. This allows students to dig deeply into a style of music that they find interesting, and share and discuss their favorite tracks with the class. Playlists go back to 1970s cassette culture, where music fans would make mixtapes to give to their friends, and live on to this day in streaming and YouTube playlists, and of course DJ culture. This element of the course supports the idea, central to the course, that music is fundamentally a medium for sharing, belonging, and communicating.				
Use of ICT	Projector, sound system, laptop, YouTube etc.				
Contents of class preparation and review	Students should review previous class notes and preview / familiarize themselves with the music style for the next class.	Hours expected to be spent preparing for class (hours per week)	2 hours	Hours expected to be spent on class review (hours per week)	3 hours
Feedback Methods	Feedback will typically be given orally for in-class discussion and tutorials, and in writing for submitted assignments.				

Grading Criteria		
Grading Methods	Grading Weights	Grading Content
In-class listening session notes (10)	30%	Written notes
Music research presentation	30%	Research, presentation
Term paper	40%	Research, writing, analysis, synthesis

Required Textbook(s)	No required textbook, but students are recommended to explore the books listed below (and others) to help prepare for their playlist presentations and paper.
Other Reading Materials/URL	<p>All the following are available in the YGU library:</p> <p>A History of Western Music: Burkholder, Grout, Palisca (Norton 2014) The history of jazz, 2nd ed: Ted Gioia (Oxford University Press 2011) Blues people : Negro music in white America: LeRoi Jones (Greenwood Press 1980) The history of the blues: Francis Davis (Da Capo Press 2003) Electronica, dance and club music: Mark J. Butler (Ashgate 2012) Music of the twentieth century : style and structure, 2nd ed: Bryan R. Simms (Schirmer Cengage Learning) Experimental music : Cage and beyond, : pbk, 2nd ed: Michael Nyman (Cambridge University Press 1999)</p> <p>Other recommended books:</p> <p>Can't Stop Won't Stop: A History of the Hip Hop Generation: Jeff Chang (Ebury Press 2005) Encyclopedia of Japanese Pop Culture: Mark Schilling (Weatherhill 1997)</p>

Plagiarism Policy	Plagiarism is the dishonest presentation of the work of others as if it were one's own. Duplicate submission is also treated as plagiarism. Depending on nature of plagiarism you may fail the assignment or the course. Repeated act of plagiarism will be reported to the University which may apply additional penalties. Direct copying from an online source or from another student usually results in a 0 grade for that assignment.
Other Additional Notes (Outline crucial policies and info not mentioned above)	<p>1) Listening sessions will be strictly no technology (laptops, phones, tablets etc), because the point is to listen carefully to the music, not to do our homework with music in the background! Students will be provided with paper to note down their observations on the music that is played, and should bring a pen to do so as these notes will be graded. Any student who uses technology in these session will be asked to put the device away or leave the class and may find their notes grade from that session reduced.</p> <p>2) A Note on A.I. In short, you may use AI for research but any work you submit must be hand-produced (written, painted, composed) by yourself. A full AI policy is attached to this syllabus. Please check it as different professors will have different policies concerning the value and use of AI.</p> <p>3) Please note this syllabus is indicative only and may change due to external events or for pedagogical reasons</p>

(NOTE 2) Class schedule is subject to change

Class Schedule	
Class Number	Content
Class 1	Introduction
Class 2	Introduction
Class 3	Lecture: Music Analysis
Class 4	Briefs, Choosing Music styles, Research Introduction
Class 5	Lecture: 20th Century Classical
Class 6	Listening Session: 20th Century Classical

Class 7	Lecture: Blues and Gospel
Class 8	Listening Session: Blues and Gospel
Class 9	Lecture: Folk and Country
Class 10	Listening Session: Folk and Country
Class 11	Lecture: Classic Rock and Metal
Class 12	Listening Session: Classic Rock and Metal
Class 13	Lecture: Alternative Rock: Punk, Indie and Grunge
Class 14	Listening Session: Alternative Rock: Punk, Indie and Grunge
Class 15	Lecture: Soul and Funk
Class 16	Listening Session: Soul and Funk

Class 17	Lecture: Jazz
Class 18	Listening Session: Jazz
Class 19	Lecture: Hip Hop and Breakbeats
Class 20	Listening Session: Hip Hop and Breakbeats
Class 21	Lecture: Electronic Music and Dance
Class 22	Listening Session: Electronic Music and Dance
Class 23	Lecture: Pop
Class 24	Listening Session: Pop
Class 25	Lecture: Reggae and Latin
Class 26	Listening Session: Reggae and Latin

Class 27	Lecture: Asian Music
Class 28	Listening Session: Asian Music
Class 29	Tutorials / Q+A
Class 30	Tutorials / Q+A