

# COMMERCIAL MUSIC HISTORY - MUS 420

SPRING 2004

Instructor: Dr. Richard Montalto  
Office: Poindexter 200  
Office Telephone: 329-7203  
Office Hours as Posted  
E-mail: rmont@muw.edu  
Webpage: www2.muw.edu/~rmont

**CLASS PERIOD:** MWF 1:00-1:50  
**3 HOURS CREDIT**

**TEXT:**

Joyner, *American Popular Music*

**NATURE OF COURSE CONTENT:**

This course is an historical survey of popular music from its origins in Africa and Nineteenth Century Europe through the music of the present. Cultural influences on composers, performers, and audiences will be examined. Various genres of popular music will be studied, including jazz, musical theatre, country, folk, and rock. The course involves lectures, discussions, and listening.

**GOALS AND OUTCOMES:**

As a result of this course the student should be able to: 1. Identify important styles performers, and works of popular music; 2. Understand the influences of culture and technology on the development of popular music.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

There will be four tests, including a final exam. In addition, an oral report will be assigned.

**METHOD OF EVALUATION:**

Each test is worth 20% of the final grade. The oral report is worth 20% of the final grade. The grading scale used is as follows: 100-90 = A, 89-80 = B, 79-70 = C, 69-60 = D, Below 60 = F.

**TOPICS TO BE COVERED:**

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading</i>
1	Popular music origins in the 19th century	
2 - 4	Tin Pan Alley and Broadway	Chapters 1 - 2
February 9	Test 1	
5 - 6	African Influences/Blues/Ragtime	Chapters 3 - 5
7 - 8	Jazz - origins to the present	Chapters 6 - 9
March 5	Test 2	
9 - 10	Origins and development of country music	Chapters 10 - 14
11	The 50's - Rhythm and Blues to Rock and Roll	Chapters 15 - 16
12	The English Invasion and the 60's	Chapters 17 - 18
April 12	Test 3	
13 - 15	Pop and Rock - 70's to the present	Chapters 19 - 23
April 21	Oral Reports	
Tuesday, May 11 - 11:30	Final Exam	