American Music:  
History of Country Music  
Midland College – MUSI 1310  
COURSE SYLLABUS

REQUIRED MATERIALS

  https://www.wwnorton.com/orders/intellipay/ListenOnlinePurchase.asp?site=enj10  
• Access to a computer with a reliable internet connection (minimum 56k), a sound card and speakers.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A course designed to enable students to trace the development of country music and its function in American culture from Appalachia in the 1920s to present.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completing this course, you should be able to:

• Describe and discuss the musicians and their music critically in a cultural or historical context.  
• Identify compositions by their respective stylistic category.  
• Identify music by its musical genre.  
• Employ technology creatively to facilitate successful computer skills.

COMPUTER ACCESS

Since this course relies heavily on web-based activities, it is essential that you have access to a reliable computer with Internet capabilities. If your computer is slow, doesn’t support media applications, or if your Internet connection is prone to busy signals or disconnects, please schedule your day so that you can use a library computer. “Computer problems” will not be considered an acceptable excuse for late or missed assignments.

GRADING

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A = 1000 - 900 points
B = 899 - 800 points
C = 799 - 700 points
D = 699 - 600 points
F = 599 - 0 points

Students are encouraged to check their progress frequently through Blackboard. Visit Blackboard/My Grades for assignment grades and comments. All course assignments and quizzes are graded using a point value system. Grades are not rounded up in this course and extra credit will not be made available.

METHODS FOR ASSESSING EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

The expected learning outcomes for this course will be evaluated through:

1. **CHAPTER QUIZZES** (40 total @ 5 points each)

   All chapter quizzes are “open-book” and are taken online through Blackboard.

   Each quiz contains a mixture of multiple choice and true or false type questions. You may take each quiz twice in order to better your score (your highest score will be recorded). Each quiz is timed. You will have a total of 10 minutes to complete a chapter quiz. Failing to click the “SUBMIT” button at the end of any quiz will cause a grading error. To avoid this, wait for a confirmation message that your quiz grade has been recorded.

2. **STYLE ASSIGNMENTS** (4 total @ 80 points each)

   As an encouragement to both listening and considering the music you are studying, you are required to complete four style assignments (minimum 250 words each). All assignments are mandatory and must be completed in order to obtain course credit. All assignments must be in Microsoft Word (.doc) format. No other format will be accepted. Late assignments will be graded at half their normal value.

3. **MID-TERM EXAM** (1 @ 240 points)

   For the mid-term exam, you will be asked to prepare several essay topics. These topics will be given to you in advance throughout the first half of the term so that you can prepare adequately. On the exam, 5 of the 8 topics will appear. You will be asked to select 3 of those 5 topics on which to write three short, 250 word essays, citing significant composers, works and historical events.

4. **FINAL EXAM** (1 @ 240 points)
For the final exam, you will be asked to prepare several essay topics. These topics will be given to you in advance throughout the second half of the term so that you can prepare adequately. On the exam, 5 of the 8 topics will appear. You will be asked to select 3 of those 5 topics on which to write three short, 250 word essays, citing significant composers, works and historical events.

GRADING RUBRIC FOR ASSIGNMENTS

A word on my grading standards: an A-grade must be earned. Merely fulfilling the terms of an assignment, and doing so in a competent, reasonable manner, is generally only enough for a “B” grade. “A” grades will only be awarded (and should only be expected) if your work goes above and beyond terms like “good,” “solid,” and “competent” to reveal notable depths of originality, insight, and excellence.

The “A” Essay / Assignment

Excels in responding to the assignment. It is original, interesting, and strongly thoughtful. Stylistically, it uses proper MLA format (in-text citations, signal phrases, etc.) and is free of spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors. It uses proper musical terminology often.

The “B” Essay / Assignment

A solid paper, responding appropriately to the assignment. It is original and interesting, yet too general at times. It uses proper MLA format, but may contain a few mechanical errors, which may annoy (but not impede) the reader. It uses proper musical terminology, but sometimes lacks sophistication.

The “C” Essay / Assignment

Adequate, but weaker and less effective than a B paper. It is original, but lacks interest and thoroughness. Stylistically, it does not use proper MLA format effectively, and contains several mechanical errors, which may temporally confuse the reader. It uses musical terminology with some success, but often lacks precise understanding.

The “D” Essay / Assignment

Does not respond appropriately to the assignment. It lacks original thinking, an interesting personal response, and depth. MLA format is not present, and/or contains many mechanical errors, which block the reader’s understanding and ability to see
connections between thoughts. It uses musical terminology carelessly, often with little success or abundance.

The “F” Essay / Assignment

Does not respond to the assignment. It lacks everything an A paper exhibits. The paper contains plagiarism (for which a paper will be awarded a grade of 0 points). MLA format is not present. Irrelevant details are cited. Musical terminology is not present.

COURSE ATTENDANCE

It is expected that each student has the maturity to login to Blackboard at least once daily. Failure to do so may result in you being denied access to our course website. Students who are denied access to our website will be required to contact Midland College’s registrar and withdraw from the course.

COURSE COMMUNICATION

All students must submit a working e-mail address in the Blackboard/Tools/Personal Information area during the first week of class. In addition, students must check their e-mail as well as Blackboard’s Announcements page at least once daily.

DROP / WITHDRAWING

All students are responsible for initiating a drop or withdraw, not the instructor. Please consult Midland College’s Academic calendar for withdraw date deadlines.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. According to Midland College’s 2007-2008 student handbook, a student plagiarizes if he/she:

a. “fails to acknowledge the sources of any information in a paper which is not either common knowledge or personal knowledge.” (65)

b. “fails to acknowledge direct quotation either by using quotation marks or (for longer passages) indentation.” (65)

c. “Merely paraphrases the original words of the source.” (66)

d. “Borrows the ideas, examples, or structure of the source without acknowledging it.” (66)

e. “Takes, buys, or receives a paper written by someone else and presents it as the
f. “Uses one paper for two different courses, or re-uses a paper previously submitted for credit, without the prior approval of the instructor or instructors.” (66)

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in our class. All assignments containing plagiarism, whether intentional or not, will be awarded a grade of 0. To understand plagiarism and how to avoid it, visit Blackboard/Course Documents/Avoiding Plagiarism.

Instructor Information:

Name:  
Office phone:  
Office hours:  
Office location:  
E-mail address:  
Division Secretary: Lula Lee, 141 AFA  
Office phone: 685-4624 

Note: Students are encouraged to contact the instructor at any time; however, making an appointment will guarantee the instructor’s availability at a specific time.