

**Midland College  
Syllabus  
MUSI 1310  
American Music  
Semester and Year  
SCH (3-0)  
Instructor Name**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A general survey of various styles of music of the Americas, including but not limited to jazz, folk, rock and contemporary music.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Identify the elements, styles and musicians representative of music within the chosen styles(s)
- Analyze the elements and structures of music using appropriate terminology.
- Critically evaluate the influence of social, political, technological and/or cultural ideas on the chosen musical style(s).
- Articulate an informed personal reflection of the chosen musical styles(s).

**Core Objectives**

This course fulfills three hours of the Creative Arts requirement in the Midland College Core Curriculum. The Core Curriculum is a set of courses that provide students with a foundation of knowledge, skills, and educational experiences that are essential for all learning.

Creative Arts courses focus on the appreciation and analysis of creative artifacts and works of the human imagination. They involve the synthesis and interpretation of artistic expression and enable critical, creative, and innovative communication about works of art. As part of the core, this course addresses the following four Creative Arts core objectives:

- **Critical Thinking Skills:** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information. Critical Thinking will be addressed through the evaluation, comparison, and analysis of historical periods, aesthetic principles, and artistic genres. The following course activities will be used to assess Critical Thinking: class discussions; written listening analysis assignments; quizzes; and a concert critique assignment.
- **Communication Skills:** to include effective written, oral, and visual communication. Communications Skills will be addressed through the students'

expression of informed opinions, researched ideas, and visual presentations. The following course activities will be used to assess Communication Skills: class discussions; written listening analysis assignments; a video creation assignment; and a concert critique assignment.

- **Teamwork:** to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal. Teamwork will be addressed through the collaborative work between students. The following course activities will be used to assess Teamwork: class discussions.
- **Social Responsibility:** to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities. Social Responsibility will be addressed through the study of the artistic, historical, and cultural diversity of artists, composers, performers, and audiences. The following course activities will be used to assess Social Responsibility: class discussions; written listening analysis assignments; and a concert critique assignment.

## COMPUTER ACCESS

This course relies heavily on web-based activities; therefore, 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 disconnects, please schedule your day so that you can use a Midland College library computer (second floor, room 213A/B). Computer problems will not be considered an acceptable excuse for late or missed assignments.

If you experience problems associated with Canvas, click the Help link on the **Canvas Login Page** (<https://midland.instructure.com/login>), or from any page within Canvas after you have logged in.

## REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS (Text may vary)

- Crawford, Richard and Larry Hamberlin. *An Introduction to America's Music*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. W.W. Norton and Co., New York. ISBN: 978-0-393-93531-8.
- Access to a reliable internet connection.
- A notebook and pen/pencil for taking notes.

[Adobe Reader](#) (Links to an external site)

## **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Plagiarism is defined as the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own written work offered for credit. A student commits plagiarism if he/she:

**1. fails to acknowledge the sources of any information** in a paper which is not either common knowledge or personal knowledge. A student can acknowledge a source through in-text citations, attribution lines, footnotes, or other forms of documentation approved by the instructor. (Common knowledge is the basic information within a field or discipline, as well as most historical dates and facts, and many ordinary observations.)

**2. fails to acknowledge direct quotation either by using quotation marks or (for longer passages) indentation.** Without the quotation marks or indentation, passages copied directly from a source might be considered plagiarized even if it is followed by an in-text citation or a footnote. The citation or footnote acknowledges that there is a source, but it does not indicate that the writer has borrowed someone else's exact words. If a writer uses the language of a source, word-for word, he/she must use quotation marks or block indentation.

**3. merely paraphrases the original words of the source.** Some students think they can avoid a charge of plagiarism by changing a few words in each sentence they copy or by rearranging the shape of phrases or the order of sentences in a paragraph. This is not true. When taking notes students must be careful to put ideas in their own words or to use direct quotations when relying on phrases directly borrowed from a source.

**4. borrows the ideas, examples, or structure of the source without acknowledging it.** A student can be guilty of plagiarism if he/she systematically borrows the ideas and organization of a source even if the language of the piece is on a major news event by using exactly the same ideas in the same order as they appear in an article in any popular news magazine.

**5. takes, buys, or receives a paper written by someone else and presents it as the student's own.**

**6. 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.

**Plagiarism will result in a failing grade on that assignment. A second plagiarized paper may result in an F for the course.**

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### **COURSE ATTENDANCE**

Because our time together in class is very limited, it is essential that we make the most efficient and constructive use of that time; therefore, attendance should be considered

mandatory. Excused absences will be granted only for documented medical or family emergencies; for religious or cultural obligations; or for university-sanctioned events. I will allow, however, two unexcused (2) absences for the term without penalty, no questions asked. Every unexcused absence after those two will lower your final course grade by 5%. After accumulating six unexcused absences you will be asked to withdraw from the course.

Consistent lateness to class will be treated as an absence. Three (3) tardies will count as one (1) absence. If you enter class after attendance is taken it is your responsibility to consult with me after class to change your status from absent to tardy. If you are absent, know that you are responsible for all material you miss, whether your absence is excused or not. Should you miss a class, it is your responsibility to ask a classmate, not the instructor, for all missed information.

It is expected that you have the maturity to login to Canvas at least three times a week. Failure to do so may result in you being denied access to our course website. Students who are denied access will be required to contact Midland College's registrar and withdraw from the course.

## **COURSE COMMUNICATION**

You must submit a working e-mail address to Canvas during the first week of class. In addition to your email address, you can set additional preferences for course notifications. Instructions on how to properly configure your notification preferences are available by clicking [here](#).

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Midland College's Department of Music keeps a Facebook profile. "Like" us by clicking [here](#) and you will be kept abreast of all the musical news and events happening here at Midland College. Note: This site is not for student/instructor communication. You may also wish to visit our website at [www.midland.edu/music](http://www.midland.edu/music).

## **PLAGIARISM**

**Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will not be tolerated in this class.** According to Midland College's current 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."
- b. "fails to acknowledge direct quotation either by using quotation marks or (for longer passages) indentation."
- c. "Merely paraphrases the original words of the source."
- d. "Borrows the ideas, examples, or structure of the source without acknowledging it."

- e. "Takes, buys, or receives a paper written by someone else and presents it as the student's own."
- 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."

ALL ASSIGNMENTS CONTAINING PLAGIARISM, WHETHER INTENTIONAL OR NOT, WILL RECEIVE A GRADE OF ZERO.

## **EVALUATION OF STUDENTS**

### **GRADING**

Students are required to check their course progress frequently through Canvas. Visit the Grades course button for all assignment grades. Be aware that the TOTAL grade you see displayed under Canvas' Grades button is an AVERAGE of only the graded assignments that you have turned in to date, and that this grade will fluctuate based on your individual assignment performance until you reach the end of the semester. To view an accurate RUNNING TOTAL percentage grade, un-check the "Calculate based on graded assignments" box in the Grades area. Grades are not rounded up. Extra credit is not made available.

### **METHODS FOR ASSESSING EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Will vary.

### **GRADING RUBRIC FOR COURSE 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.

An "A" Grade:

Excels in responding to the assignment. It is original, interesting, and strongly thoughtful. Stylistically, it is free of spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors. It uses proper musical terminology often and addresses the required topics critically and skillfully.

A "B" Grade:

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

A “C” Grade:

Adequate, but weaker and less effective than a B assignment. It is original, but lacks interest and thoroughness. Stylistically, it contains several mechanical errors, which may temporarily confuse the reader. It uses musical terminology with some success, but often lacks precise understanding. Demonstrates only a basic comprehension of subject matter.

A “D” Grade:

Does not respond appropriately to the assignment. It lacks original thinking, an interesting personal response, and depth. It 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.

An “F” Grade:

Does not respond to the assignment. It lacks everything an A paper exhibits. Irrelevant details are cited. Musical terminology is not present. There is very little or no discussion concerning the required questions.

## **ATTENDANCE IN IVC CLASSES**

Early College High School and Dual Credit students must show themselves on camera at least once AND turn in that day’s classtime tasks to be counted presented.

## **PROHIBITION OF AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDING OF INSTRUCTOR AND CLASS ACTIVITIES**

Students may not make audio or visual recordings of any face-to-face or electronic class activities, including, for example, discussions, conferences, and lectures. **The only exception is for students with a disability documented according to Midland College ADA Statement and Midland College-ordered accommodations specifically authorizing such recording.**

## **DROP / WITHDRAWAL**

The student is responsible for initiating a drop or withdrawal, not the instructor.

**Withdrawal from course:** The instructor is not able to withdraw a student from the course after the census date. A student wishing to withdraw must fill out the **withdrawal form in MyMCPortal.**

## 2021-2022 WITHDRAWAL DATES

Fall	November 11
Fall First 8-Week Session	September 30
Fall Second 8-Week Session	November 29
December Mini-Semester	December 27
Spring	April 14
Spring First 8-Week Session	February 24
Spring Second 8-Week Session	April 28
May Mini-Semester	May 26
Summer I	June 30
Summer II	August 4

## ACADEMIC RESEARCH

For Research information, tutorials, library information, web links and more, access the **Distance Learning Webpage for the [Midland College Fasken Learning Resource Center](#)** (Links to an external site).

### Academic Database Access

1. Go to [Midland College Fasken Learning Resource Center](#) (Links to an external site).
2. Click on big green box labeled “A-Z Databases.”
3. Click on “EBSCO”
4. Then click on “EBSCO” database. **You will be taken to the Midland College Microsoft 365 site, and from there you will be taken directly to EBSCO.**
5. **Sign in to Microsoft 365.**

**Username:** Use your MC student email address as the username.

**Password:** Put in your password as follows.

### If you have a 9-digit MC Student ID

1st initial of your first name + 1st three initials of your last name + your complete Midland College student ID

#### Example:

Student: John Smith

MC ID: 123004567

Password = **jsmi123004567**

### If you have a 5-digit MC Student ID

1st initial of your first name + 1st three initials of your last name + 0000 + your complete Midland College student ID

**Example:**

Student: John Smith

MC ID: 12345

Password = **jsmi000012345**

After you log in you will have the option to change your Microsoft 365 password. Hint: You may want to simplify your life by changing your MC email and Canvas accounts to have the same password as Microsoft 365.

**TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

If you experience technical difficulties with Canvas, click the **Help** link at the bottom of the [Canvas login page \(Links to an external site\)](#), or at the bottom of the green toolbar on the left while in Canvas. Select Report a Problem, provide details, and submit the ticket. Your request will automatically be sent to the Midland College information technology support center. Check your email for support updates.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement:**

Midland College provides services for students with disabilities through Student Services. In order to receive accommodations, students must visit [www.midland.edu/accommodation](http://www.midland.edu/accommodation) and complete the Application for Accommodation Services located under the Apply for Accommodations tab. Services or accommodations are not automatic, each student must apply and be approved to receive them. All documentation submitted will be reviewed and a “Notice of Accommodations” letter will be sent to instructors outlining any reasonable accommodations.

**Phone, Midland College Special Needs Counselor: 432-685-5598**

[Midland College Disability Services](#) (Links to an external site)

[Microsoft Accessibility](#) (Links to an external site)

[Canvas Accessibility](#) (Links to an external site)

[Turnitin Accessibility](#) (Links to an external site)

[Adobe Reader Accessibility](#) (Links to an external site)

[Google Reader Accessibility](#) (Links to an external site)

**ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES**

[Academics and Student Services](#) (Links to an external site)



**Phone, Midland College Testing Center: 432-685-4735**

**Phone, LanguageHub, Midland College On-Campus Writing Center: 432-685-4811, 182 TC**

**Language Hub Online (available to all students in Canvas)**

**STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUE PROCESS**

**[Midland College Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) (Links to an external site)**

### **PRIVACY POLICIES**

The below privacy policies apply to this course, as they are applicable to your conduct on this online platform.

**[Midland College Website Privacy Policy](#)** (Links to an external site)

**[Canvas Privacy Policy](#)** (Links to an external site)

**[YouTube Privacy Policy](#)** (Links to an external site)

**[Canvas Student Guide](#)** (Links to an external site)

**[Turnitin Privacy Policy](#)** (Links to an external site)

### **Instructor Information:**

Instructor Name:

Email:

Office Location:

Office Phone:

Office Hours:

Department Chair: Rabon Bewley

Fine Arts and Communications Division Dean: Dr. William Feeler

Secretary: Ms. Lula Lee

Division Office: 135 AFA

Phone: 432-685-4624

Division Office hours: 8-5, Monday-Friday

### **Non-Discrimination Statement**

Midland College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following individual has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

**Tana Baker**

Title IX Coordinator/Compliance Officer

3600 N. Garfield, SSC 131

Midland, Texas 79705  
(432) 685-4781  
[tbaker@midland.edu](mailto:tbaker@midland.edu)

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit the ED.gov Office of Civil Rights website, or call 1 (800) 421-3481.

**UPDATED AUGUST 2021**