

Master Syllabus

1. Course Information

College: Liberal Arts
Department: Music
Course Title: African American Music: America and Beyond
Course Designation and Number: MUS 290
GE Area(s):
IV: Human Expression-Fine and Performing Arts
VI: College Component

Writing Intensive: Yes No

Methods of Instruction: Lecture
 Discussion
 Web-enhanced
 Web-only
 Other
Small group and performance activities

Includes Lab: Yes No

Prerequisites: None

2. Objectives:

GE Program Objectives:

The General Education Program is broadly based in order to promote intellectual growth, cultivate critical examination and informed understanding, encourage breadth and flexibility of perspective and provide students an opportunity to develop skills and knowledge that will form the basis for their life-long learning. Accordingly, the General Education program at Wright State University is a planned and coherent program that is designed to help students,

...increase knowledge and understanding of the past, of the world in which we live, and of how both past and present have an impact on the future.

GE Area Four Learning Objectives:

- a. recognize and critically discuss significant creative, philosophical and religious works
- b. understand the complex blend of personal vision, social-cultural background, ethical values and aesthetic judgement in such works
- c. discuss the diverse means of communication in such works

GE Area Six Learning Objectives:

- a. communicate with individuals who are in the student's major, in allied fields, and non-specialists
- b. understand important relationships and interdependencies between the student's major and other academic disciplines, world events or life endeavors

Course Objectives and GE Learning Outcomes:

African American Music: American and Beyond presents the evolution of African American music from a historical, cultural and musicological perspective. The primary focus of the course will be the examination of distinct genres of African American music through the application of critical analysis of musical styles and performance practices using a multi-disciplinary approach.

Area Four learning outcomes addressed:

This class recognizes and critically discusses significant creative, philosophical and religious works by describing and analyzing the most famous works by African composers and performers. This class helps the student understand the complex vision, social-cultural background, ethical values and aesthetic judgement in their compositions by exploring the composers' lives and the social context in which they live. This class discusses the diverse means of communication in these works by developing a specialized and descriptive vocabulary of terms and through analysis of these masterworks.

Area Six learning outcomes addressed:

Communicates with individuals who are in the student's major, in allied fields, and non-specialists using appropriate musical, historical and cultural terminology related to the analysis of African American music.

Understand important relationships and interdependencies between the student's major and the influence of African American music upon American and world culture in broad areas of culture including art, dance, theater, literature, popular culture, the media and the entertainment industry.

For WI Courses:

- To improve student's writing proficiency –their ability to develop ideas and transmit information for an appropriate audience in an organized, coherent fashion while writing with appropriate style and correct grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling. Music 290 students will apply music vocabulary, concepts and definitions through written analysis, essays and formal exams.
- To encourage students to use writing as a learning tool to explore and structure ideas, to articulate thoughts and questions, and to discover what they know and do not know, thereby empowering students to use writing as a tool of discovery, self-discipline, and thought. Music 290 students will write analysis and detailed descriptions of African American musical styles, idioms and cultural influences.
- To demonstrate for students the ways in which writings is integral to all disciplines and essential to the learning and conveying of knowledge in all fields. Students will be assigned a research paper integrating African American Music with other aspects of culture.

3. Suggested Course Materials

Text: African American Music for Everyone by Stan L. Breckenridge(Kendall Publishing,2002)

4. Suggested Methods of Evaluation

Several listening exams, written analysis of musical styles, and a final exam will be administered.

5. Grading Policy

All GE courses are graded A-F.

WI component is graded Pass/Unsatisfactory

6. Suggested Weekly Course Outline Including Typical Assignments

- Wk 1: General Characteristics of African American Music
Listening, reading: chpt 1
- Wk 2: The Spiritual-Foundation of the African American folk tradition
Listening, readings: chpt 10
- Wk 3: The Blues: New songs in a strange land
Listening, readings: chpt.2, 12
- Wk 4: Gospel Music-A new song of freedom
Listening, readings, chpt. 4,14
- Wk 5: Jazz-from ragtime to cross-over/contemporary
Listening, reading chpt 8,13
- Wk 6: African Americans in Classical and Concert Music
Listening, Reading: chpt. 5,6
- Wk 7: Popular Forms: Old School 1950-1970's
Listening, reading; chpt. 15, 16
- Wk 8: Popular Forms: Rap and Hip-Hop 1980's present
Listening, chpt. 18,19
- Wk 9: African American Music around the world: Europe, Japan
Listening: select readings
- Wk 10: Forum: Future direction of African American music
Listening, discussion of projects

7. Other

Syllabus distributed to students should employ the format approved by UCAP and must include:

- Instructor name, office hours, and contact information
- Office of Disability Services information
- Information on how grades will be determined
- Attendance policy