AMERICAN MUSIC HISTORY

THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN MUSIC



COURSE OUTLINE

American Music History Course Description:

AMERICAN MUSIC HISTORY explores the history of American music and the relationship between music and cultural history. In this course, students trace American music from work songs in the fields of the Mississippi Delta through jazz in the melting pot of New Orleans; from Memphis and early rock and roll to England and the British Invasion. Students explore soul music in Alabama and country in California; from rap to punk to grunge, this course looks at cultural contributions from diverse music pioneers as students build a timeline of American music. Drawing from primary source materials, in each lesson students view lectures about the music and cultural history of a particular period, listen to curated music playlists, read excerpts from scholarly works, watch relevant videos, execute an activity, and reflect on and discuss their interpretation of the lesson. **Upon completion of the course, students will be able to identify different genres of American music and associated musicians, describe the relationship between music and American history, and interpret the cultural impact of music on American society.**

EXPLORE THE EVOLUTION OF AMERICAN MUSIC:

Interweaves music appreciation with cultural studies and American history



COURSE SCHEDULE

American Music History Course Lessons:

Part One: The Roots

Early Blues: American History in Music

Early Blues follows the history of sharecroppers and descendants of enslaved people in the Mississippi Delta as they combined African rhythms and work songs giving birth to American music.
Playlist includes Robert Johnson, Son House.

Early Jazz: New Orleans Melting Pot

Early Jazz explores the rich cultural history of the diverse port city of New Orleans and the early days of jazz music, America's art form, as it developed from the circle dances in Congo Square.
Playlist includes Jelly Roll Morton, Kid Ory.

Jazz Age: Swinging in Harlem

Jazz Age displays the beauty of the Harlem Renaissance and the legendary artists, poets, writers, scholars, and musicians who thrived during the explosion of art, music, and culture.
Playlist includes Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong.

Country & Folk: Depression Era Music

Country & Folk examines how country music passed down through the oral tradition comforted during the Great Depression as protest movements gave rise to folk singers.
Playlist includes Hank Williams, The Carter Family.

Electric Blues: Sounds of the City

Electric Blues journeys from a sharecropping south through the Great Migration to bustling northern cities and the power of electric blues sowing the seeds of rock and roll.
Playlist includes Muddy Waters, Howlin Wolf.

Bebop: Improvisation as Freedom

Bebop reveals that amid the backdrop of the Cold War, American jazz musicians promoted freedom across the globe while facing America's contradictions at home.
Playlist includes Charlie Parker, Thelonious Monk.

Rock and Roll: Crossover in Memphis

Rock and Roll surveys diverse early pioneers of American roots music who put all the pieces together and gave birth to America's most famous export.
Playlist includes Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Chuck Berry, Elvis Presley.

Students receive a lesson each week that includes lectures, videos, historical photography, a curated music playlist, activities, a timeline, lesson guides, and downloadable worksheets.

COURSE SCHEDULE

American Music History Course Lessons:

British Invasion: Repatriating American Blues

British Invasion describes the American roots of the British Invasion when a motley generation of jazz and blues lovers absorbed the music in tattered post-war England.
Playlist includes The Beatles, The Rolling Stones.

Bonus Lesson
Surf Music: Post-War California Dreaming

Surf Music celebrates the perfect storm that gave rise to surf music and culture during a golden age in mid-century Southern California.
Playlist includes Dick Dale, The Beach Boys, The Ventures.

Part One Review, Reflection, Test, and Essay Assignment.

Part Two: The Branches

Motown: Hitsville in Turbulent Times

Motown discusses the music machine in Detroit that flourished amid the backdrop of protests across America's burning cities, desegregating music and moving society forward.
Playlist includes The Supremes, Marvin Gaye.

Soul Music: Magic in Muscle Shoals

Soul Music reviews the post-civil rights era when a small-town rural music studio inspired the groove for legendary soul singers amid a period of rising Black pride in America.
Playlist includes Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin.

Psychedelic Rock: The Counterculture Years

Psychedelic Rock explores the influential sounds that defined a generation who rebelled against war and middle-class society with an aim to change the world.
Playlist includes Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, The Doors.

California Country: Troubadours in the Canyon

California Country highlights a group of singer-songwriters who journeyed out west and forged personal music that reflected the times and the country's mellow mood.
Playlist includes Joni Mitchell, Jackson Browne, Eagles.

Each lesson in the American Music History course includes engaging interactive discussions that spur critical thinking and peer to peer debate.

COURSE SCHEDULE

American Music History Course Lessons:

Southern Rock: The South Rises in Song

Southern Rock traces outlaws as they made their own rules and southern sons who reclaimed the blues as southern rock emerged in the aftermath of the civil rights era.
Playlist includes Willie Nelson, Allman Brothers Band.

Rap Music: Ingenuity in the South Bronx

Rap Music explores the music, graffiti art, and hip-hop culture that arose amid despair and crumbling buildings as forgotten inner-city kids demanded society's attention.
Playlist includes The Sugarhill Gang, Run-D.M.C.

Punk & Ska: Anti-Capitalism in the Clubs

Punk & Ska shows how a generation raged against capitalist society in the wake of renewed conservatism at home while British youths expressed unity and spread anti-racism abroad.
Playlist includes Ramones, The English Beat.

Grunge: Disillusioned Generation X

Grunge discusses a generation left behind as bleak music in Seattle makes known their disappointment in society's broken promises and the end of the American Dream.
Playlist includes Nirvana, Soundgarden, Pearl Jam.

Bonus Lesson
Disco: Freedom of Expression

Disco examines the rise of glittery music and underground gay culture from nightclubs in New York City to the mainstream American heartland and the inevitable cultural backlash.
Playlist includes Donna Summer, Bee Gees.

Part Two Review, Reflection, Test, and Essay Assignment.

Each part concludes with a review, test, and essay assignment to gauge student understanding of the cultural impact of American music.

The American Music History course is designed in Canvas and lessons drop weekly in a semester course or bi-weekly in a year-long course format. All lectures, reading excerpts, videos, playlists, and assignments are embedded in each lesson in Canvas. All playlists are on Spotify. A free Spotify account is the only course material necessary to complete the course. ***Canvas-ready, standards aligned, Quality Matters certified, UC A-G (F) approved upon adoption. musichistoryhall.com.***

COURSE SCHEDULE

American Music History Course Lessons:

Add-On Bonus Lessons: The Roots

Tin Pan Alley: The American Songbook

Tin Pan Alley highlights the early decades of the twentieth century, when Jewish immigrants composed America's unfolding story.
Playlist includes songs by Irving Berlin and George Gershwin.

Zydeco Music: Cajun and Creole Influences

Zydeco music explores a distinct and fascinating Louisiana French music descended from Canadian exiles that influenced rock and roll.
Playlist includes Clifton Chenier, Buckwheat Zydeco.

Wartime Music: Patriotic American Songbook

Wartime Music swings morale as military bands and jazz crooners lift spirits at home and abroad amidst the tragic WWII era.
Playlist includes Glenn Miller, The Andrews Sisters.

Opry Sweethearts: Nashville Trailblazers

Opry Sweethearts highlights the indomitable spirit and immense contributions to country music by women during the golden age.
Playlist includes Kitty Wells, Patsy Cline, Linda Martell.

Cocktail Music: Mid-Century Sophistication

Cocktail Music holds sway between early rock and roll and the civil rights era when glamour glossed over a society at the breaking point.
Playlist includes Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin.

Blues & Folk Revival: Searching for the Legends

Blues & Folk Revival highlights how the folk music scene inspired a renewed interest in early blues music and the forgotten legends.
Playlist includes Son House, Skip James.

Add-On Bonus Lessons build on the core lessons in the American Music History course and expand the range of music and cultures represented.

COURSE SCHEDULE

American Music History Course Lessons:

Add-On Bonus Lessons: The Branches

Mexican Music: Farm Workers Unite

Mexican Music examines the rise of Mexican cultural music as passionate leaders of labor movements advocated for change.
Playlist includes Lydia Mendoza, Vicente Fernandez.

Native American Sounds: Indigenous Influence

Native American Sounds highlights the immense influence of Indigenous culture on American music despite efforts to marginalize.
Playlist includes Charley Patton, Robbie Robertson.

Funk Music: Rhythm Revival

Funk Music showcases the Afro-Cuban rhythms of New Orleans and the uniquely influential Midwest funk capital of Dayton, Ohio.
Playlist includes The Meters, Ohio Players, Lakeside, Zapp.

Heartland Rock: Globalization Hits Home

Heartland Rock describes a genre of music that sprang up amid the rise of globalization and the decline of small-town American life.
Playlist includes Bruce Springsteen, John Mellencamp.

Hard Rock: Metal and Mayhem

Hard Rock explores a peak era of record sales and arena concerts amid excess and debauchery along Hollywood's Sunset Strip.
Playlist includes Led Zeppelin, Van Halen, Guns N Roses.

Folk Rock: Third Wave Feminism

Folk Rock highlights a period when feminism rode a third wave and women made considerable strides in politics and the music industry.
Playlist includes Sarah McLachlan, Natalie Merchant.

Add-On Bonus Lessons increase students' understanding of significant eras and diverse cultures and their substantial contributions to American music.