

**Syllabus: MUS 355 American Music (online)**  
**Summer A 2024 (SLN#43617, #43618)**  
**Opens Monday, May 19, 2025**

**Instructor:** Dr. Katherine Palmer

**Course e-mail:** [mus355@gmail.com](mailto:mus355@gmail.com) (for all questions regarding content, grading, etc.)

**Computer support:** [HOLSupport@asu.edu](mailto:HOLSupport@asu.edu) OR visit <http://herbergeronline.asu.edu/help> to submit a support ticket (for all questions regarding technical issues)

**Please contact the support team immediately if you encounter technical issues while completing an assignment and you are unable to resolve the problem and reset your work.**

The Herberger Online support team is available to assist you 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. You may reach them anytime at:

- [holsupport@asu.edu](mailto:holsupport@asu.edu)
- 1-888-298-4117
- 480-965-3057 (International)

When contacting support, please provide:

- The full name of this course (ABC 123: Long Name)
- The title(s) of any assignment(s) you're having trouble with
- A brief description of the problem
- Detailed, step-by-step instructions to reproduce the problem

*Because this is an online course, all communication will take place via email ([mus355@gmail.com](mailto:mus355@gmail.com)), NOT in person or by phone.*

## **COURSE OVERVIEW**

**Class home page:**

<https://americanmusic.hol.asu.edu/users/home/>

**Class login information:**

<https://courses.hol.asu.edu/services/landing/pages/accounts>

**Class text:**

Required readings for this course have been placed on e-reserve by ASU Libraries. Go to <http://lib.asu.edu/> and choose Course Reserves for this course by professor's name or course number. A list of these readings is posted on the course website under "Documents" on the course home page.

**Course Description and Objectives:**

This course introduces students to the broad and rich topic of American music through brief explorations of topics that represent faculty specialties in the ASU School of Music. After an introduction to general music terms and concepts and a brief survey of some

highlights in American music, students are given a choice of which special topic units they will study. Each of these units is taught by a music historian at ASU. Because this unique online class features fifteen different modules on special topics created by seven different instructors, the administrator reserves the right to refer you to the specific teacher who built a module, if you have questions regarding that module's material. The course concludes with a series of units that offer students the opportunity to reflect critically on what they have learned. No previous musical experience or knowledge of music history is required.

### **General Studies Gold Syllabus Statement:**

This course fulfills the ASU **Humanities, Arts and Design** General Studies requirement. Students completing a Humanities, Arts and Design course will be able to:

1. Analyze cultural creations or practices in historical or contemporary context.
2. Interpret the formal, aesthetic, and creative elements in literary, visual, or cultural texts.
3. Articulate relationships among tradition, innovation, individual creativity, and communal expression in cultural creations or practices.
4. Communicate narratives, ideas, or arguments using such elements as evidence, creativity, and critical thinking.

### **Technical Requirements:**

Access to a high-speed Internet connection is required to take this course. Because this course is entirely delivered via the Internet, you are responsible for making sure that the computer you use to access all course materials meets or exceeds the specified computer minimum qualifications as listed on the course website. Also, due to the high media content of this course, you will be required to set up and configure a media player that will consistently play the mp3 files and the mp4 digital clips delivered via the course website. If your computer breaks at any time during the semester, it is your responsibility to locate Internet access for all lectures, assignments, and exams. **No make-ups of any type will be allowed due to computer problems on your end, so please locate reliable Internet access during submission of all course work.**

You are highly encouraged not to enroll, or to drop immediately, if you do not have computer experience, if you are not willing or prepared to assume the added responsibility of a computer-based course, or if you plan to be away from a computer site for an extended period of time during the semester. Necessary required skills include downloading updating your web browser(s), surfing the net, conferring via email, and other intermediate computer knowledge. If you believe you are unwilling or unable to devote the time necessary to complete this course to your satisfaction, please consider dropping this class as soon as possible.

## **COURSE CONTENT & SCHEDULE**

### **Offensive Materials Disclaimer:**

Every effort is made to limit explicit or potentially offensive content in this class without ignoring essential issues in the history of American music. This is not always possible

when the title of a song or recording, or the lyric within that song or recording may include explicit or culturally sensitive language. In this course, you will be required to listen to, view, and analyze materials that you may consider offensive.

We do not intend in any way to offend, nor do we as the content and technical team, the School of Music, Dance and Theater, the Herberger Institute of Design and the Arts, or Arizona State University share in the opinions of the musicians and their songs that may offend. Nonetheless, because these materials speak to issues and controversies in the history of American music that are essential to this course, no suitable substitutions are available for them, and none will be provided.

By continuing with this course, you are agreeing to be held academically accountable for all required materials in the syllabus, regardless of their potentially offensive nature. Students who are unwilling either to hear or think critically about such material are encouraged to drop this course.

### **How the Course Works:**

This is not a typical online course! Not all of the material is required, so you can choose which materials you will study, and when you will take the exams (within limits). The course is divided into three units. Each unit contains three or more “segments.” Some of these segments are mandatory, and some you can choose not to study. **It is not possible to take extra exams for additional points.** Here’s how it works:

### **Unit 1: Open Monday, May 19 – Thursday, May 29**

All **3** segments in this unit are required:

- 1 - Course Introduction
- 2 - Musical Terms, Part 1  
Musical Terms, Part 2  
Musical Terms, Part 3
- 3 - Basic Survey - Study all timelines, listening examples, and diagrams.

**Exams:** 3 exams correspond to the segments above

- Syllabus and Course Introduction Exam: 15 questions, 22.5 minutes, worth 15 points
- Musical Terms Exam: 30 questions, 45 minutes, worth 60 points
- Basic Survey Exam: 50 questions, 75 minutes, worth 100 points

**You must keep track of your own time. The exams DO NOT have built in timers. You will lose .5 points as a penalty for every minute you go over the allotted time.**

### **Unit 2: Open Monday, May 26 – Wednesday, June 18**

Choose **5** from the following modules:

- 1 - Afro-Cuban Music in America
- 2 - Aaron Copland
- 3 - Émigré Composers: Stravinsky, and Schoenberg
- 4 - Experimentalists: Cage, Cowell, and Ives
- 5 - Heavy Metal
- 6 - Jazz

- 7 - Minstrelsy
- 8 - Powwow
- 9 - Psychedelic Rock
- 10 - Spirituals

**Exams:** 1 exam for each segment chosen, 5 exams total

- 20 questions each, 30 minute time limit on each exam, worth 100 points each
- You must keep track of your own time. The exams DO NOT have built in timers. You will lose .5 points as a penalty for every minute you go over the allotted time.

### **Unit 3: Open Monday, June 16 – Friday, June 27**

Choose **2** from the following segments:

- 1 - Music and Race
- 2 - Music and Gender
- 3 - Music and Class
- 4 - Music and Age

**Exams:** 1 exam for each segment chosen, 2 exams total:

- 20 questions each, 30 minute time limit on each exam, worth 80 points each
- You must keep track of your own time. The exams DO NOT have built in timers. You will lose .5 points as a penalty for every minute you go over the allotted time.

#### **More information about each unit:**

**For Unit 1:** Be sure to study the lectures, timeline, and other course materials. As you finish the segments (1, 2, and 3), take the corresponding exam. **Take all three (3) exams before the Unit 1 deadline.** Unit 1 has quite a bit of information, including vocabulary and dates to be learned, so please be prepared to spend as much time as possible with this unit to be prepared for the exam.

**For Unit 2:** You have some choices! Choose the five (5) segments that you would most like to learn about and study the materials in each of those segments. When you finish a segment, take the exam for that segment and move on. All of the Unit 2 segments are available for several weeks, so feel free to browse around and explore. **Just be sure to complete five (5) Unit 2 segment exams before the deadline.** Since the exams are detailed and there's a lot of material to study, it is strongly recommended that you work at a steady pace, rather than waiting until the last minute to take all of your segment exams. **It is not possible to take extra exams for additional points.**

**For Unit 3:** You have more choices! Chose the two (2) segments in Unit 3 that you would like to learn about and study the materials in each of those segments. When you finish a segment, take the exam for that segment and move on. All of the Unit 3 segments are available for several weeks, so feel free to browse around and explore. **As with the previous unit, be sure to complete two (2) Unit 3 segment exams before the Unit 3 deadline.** Also, please work at a steady pace rather than cramming at the last minute. **It is not possible to take extra exams for additional points.**

### Important Dates and Exam Windows:

Unit 1: Opens 05/19/25 at 8:00 am and closes 05/29/25 at **11:59 pm**

Unit 2: Opens 05/26/25 at 8:00 am and closes 06/18/25 at **11:59 pm**

Unit 3: Opens 06/16/25 at 8:00 am and closes 06/27/25 at **11:59 pm**

**NOTE:** All times listed are for the Arizona time zone, and you are responsible for making any time-zone adjustments for your area. Arizona does **not** switch to daylight savings time. With weeks to complete and submit, **no late exams or assignments will be accepted under any conditions.**

### Semester/Course Calendar:

Monday, May 19	Classes begin
Tuesday, May 20	Last day to drop/add without Institute approval
Friday, May 23	Tuition and Fees 100% Refund Deadline
Sunday, June 8	Course Withdrawal Deadline
Friday, June 27	Complete Withdrawal Deadline/Last Day of Classes

### Course Withdrawal Deadline:

If you are unable to complete the course, it is your responsibility to arrange for withdrawal from the class by **Sunday, June 8**. You will not be automatically withdrawn and unless you are officially withdrawn from the course you will receive a final grade based upon the total points you have earned for the semester. Students are required to pay all tuition and fees for any registered course unless enrollment is officially cancelled during the 100% refund period. Please visit the Academic Calendar to review the withdrawal deadlines for this semester. For more information on Drop/Add and Withdrawal visit: <https://students.asu.edu/drop-add>

### Religious Holidays:

A list of recognized religious holidays may be found at: <http://students.asu.edu/cora/holidays>. Students who will experience exam conflicts while observing any of these holidays must notify the professor within the first 3 weeks of class to arrange for accommodation.

## ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING PROCEDURES

### Grading Scale:

738-820	=	A
656-737	=	B
574-655	=	C
492-573	=	D
0-491	=	E

### Workload:

Because this is an accelerated course, students should expect to devote at least **16–20 hours per week** to this course throughout the semester. As noted below, student obligations include listening assignments, readings, recorded lectures, demonstrations,

worksheets, and interviews, videos, and exams. **No extra credit is offered with this course.**

### **Listening/Viewing Assignments:**

Our listening/viewing assignments for this term will be available on the course website itself.

### **Exams and Quizzes:**

All exams and quizzes will be taken online through the course website. **I strongly suggest that you use a wired internet connection for the exams. Be sure to use the “practice test” immediately before each exam and quiz to verify that your computer is properly configured.**

### **Exam Resets:**

**Exam resets are only available in instances of computer and technical errors.**

If you experience computer or technical problems during an exam, **DO NOT SUBMIT IT!** You have only two resets for the entire semester (see below), so do not reset an exam unless you’ve read and understood this entire paragraph. If you encounter technical problems, first exit the browser, and take appropriate steps to identify and solve the problem with your computer (by using the practice test, moving to a different computer, or contacting technical support). Once you have resolved the problem, then return to the exam page on your course website to reset your exam. Use the practice test again before taking the reset. The system will allow you to reset your own exam if you have not already submitted or reset that exam. **NOTE: Only two resets, total,** are allowed for the semester. An exam you choose to reset can only be reset once, so you must take all reasonable steps to resolve any technical difficulties before attempting the reset. No resets will be allowed outside of the exam period. Please contact Herberger Online Support in the event of needing technical assistance.

### **Make Up Exams for Extenuating Circumstances:**

Make up exams will be allowed only in documented cases of bereavement, hospitalization, or doctor’s note specifying you were unable to leave your bed during the designated exam window. If one of these unfortunate circumstances befalls you, please notify your professor within 1 week (7 days) of the exam and present documentation of your reason for missing the exam. No make-up exams will be given to students who 1) “miss” or “forget to take” an exam, 2) encounter work or transportation conflicts, 3) were sick but did not get a doctor’s note specifying that the student was unable to complete the exam during the entire exam period, or 4) who do not contact the professor within 1 week of missing the exam. The authenticity of all documentation will be confirmed; do not submit false documentation.

### **Exam and Assignment Receipts:**

All submitted exams and assignments are given a confirmation number via a submission results page if the submission is successful. **If you do not receive a confirmation number for an exam or assignment, that submission has NOT been successful,** and you should contact Computer Support immediately at

[HOLSupport@asu.edu](mailto:HOLSupport@asu.edu) OR visit <http://herbergeronline.asu.edu/help> to submit a support ticket.

If you have no confirmation number, you have no grade. It is your responsibility to make note of each confirmation number you receive for each exam/topic assignment you submit. This is your official receipt for work completed, so it is important to keep these receipts.

Your grades can be viewed by clicking on the "Grades" link in the course navigation menu after logging in. Please allow Computer Support several hours after each exam period has ended to process and post scores. It is your responsibility to keep track of your status in the course by regularly checking your grades, as no academic warnings can be sent due to the large numbers of students enrolled. For that same reason, final grades cannot be submitted until the last possible due date of the semester and may not be officially posted until after graduation. Please visit the Grades page after you complete Unit 3 to determine your final grade.

### **Testing Procedures:**

Access to a non-wireless, high-speed Internet connection is strongly encouraged for test taking. There will be several video clips and a few video presentations lasting in excess of 40 minutes. The examinations may include audio and still images. Adequate bandwidth is essential.

Please use headphones or stereo speakers when listening to musical examples. Built-in computer speakers offer poor sound quality and may reduce scores on assignments.



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & POLICIES

### Academic Integrity and Student Conduct:

Do NOT navigate away from an exam/quiz once you've opened it for any reason! No other web pages or computers should be open while taking an exam. Accessing, or trying to access course lectures or any other course page while you are taking an exam - or opening new browsers - is in violation of academic honesty.

The ASU student honor code affirms the commitment of ASU to uphold the values, principles, and ethics of academic integrity. All students are expected follow the code which states:

*"We, the students of Arizona State University, have adopted this code as an affirmation of our commitment to academic integrity and our participation in ethical education. We embrace the duty to uphold ASU's Honor Code, and in light of that duty, We promise to refrain from academic dishonesty. We pledge to act with integrity and honesty to promote these values among our peers. We agree to always abide by the Sun Devil Way and uphold the values of the New American University."*

Every student is expected to produce his/her original, independent work. Any student whose work indicates a violation of the ASU Academic Integrity Policy including cheating, plagiarism, and dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary action. Plagiarism is defined as deliberately passing off someone else's words or ideas as your own. All necessary and appropriate sanctions will be issued to all parties involved with plagiarizing any and all course work. Plagiarism and any other form of academic dishonesty that is in violation with the Student Code of Conduct will not be tolerated. Arizona State University and the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts expect the highest standards of academic integrity from all students. Failure to meet these standards may result in suspension or expulsion from the university or other sanctions as specified in the ASU Student Academic Integrity Policy (<http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity>), "[e]ach student must act with honesty and integrity, and must respect the rights of others in carrying out all academic assignments." This policy also defines academic dishonesty and sets a process for faculty members and colleges to sanction dishonesty. Violations of this policy fall into five broad areas that include but are not limited to:

- Cheating on an academic evaluation or assignments
- Plagiarizing
- Academic deceit, such as fabricating data or information
- Aiding Academic Integrity Policy violations and inappropriately collaborating
- Falsifying academic records

I sanction any incidents of academic dishonesty in my courses using University and HIDA guidelines. Should you have any question about whether or not something falls subject to this clause, feel free to contact me or review the university policy on



academic integrity at the above link. Per ASU policy, a student may not avoid the consequences of academic dishonesty by withdrawing from a course, and may be placed back in the course in order to face sanctions resulting from academic integrity violations. You are responsible for abiding by this policy.

### **Student Conduct and Copyright:**

ASU adheres to a university-wide Student Code of Conduct. The philosophy behind this policy states: The aim of education is the intellectual, personal, social, and ethical development of the individual. The educational process is ideally conducted in an environment that encourages reasoned discourse, intellectual honesty, openness to constructive change and respect for the rights of all individuals. Self-discipline and a respect for the rights of others in the university community are necessary for the fulfillment of such goals. The Student Code of Conduct is designed to promote this environment at each of the state universities. You are expected to treat your instructor and your fellow classmates with respect and kindness. In all correspondence and in Discussion Board postings, you should show respect for the viewpoints of others who may disagree with you or see things from a different perspective. Criticizing, ridiculing, insulting, or belittling others will not be accepted. Keep in mind that electronic communications do not have the advantage of nonverbal cues that are so much a part of interpersonal communication. Humor or satire can sometimes be misinterpreted in strictly electronic communication forums. In addition, all students should be aware of their [Rights and Responsibilities](#) at Arizona State University.

Students must refrain from uploading to any course shell, discussion board, or website used by the course instructor or other course forum, material that is not the student's original work, unless the students first comply with all applicable copyright laws; faculty members reserve the right to delete materials on the grounds of suspected copyright infringement. The course content, including lectures and other handouts, is copyrighted material. Students may not share outside the class, upload, sell, or distribute course content or notes taken during the conduct of the course (see [ACD 304–06](#), “Commercial Note Taking Services” for more information). **THIS CONTENT IS PROTECTED AND MAY NOT BE SHARED, UPLOADED, SOLD, OR DISTRIBUTED.**

### **Online Activity Logs:**

All course activity is logged by the Herberger Online servers, and those logs are regularly reviewed by Herberger Online during the course of normal business. These logs contain all requests you make while visiting the site: every image, video, web page, etc. Each request is logged with the time, down to the second, when it was made. If you contact your instructor, or Herberger Online, about a technical issue, these logs will be reviewed as part of that process.

### **Special Accommodations:**

To request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact the ASU Disability Resource Center [www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/ed/drc/#](http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/ed/drc/#) (Phone: (480) 965-1234; TDD: (480) 965-9000). This is a very important step, as accommodations cannot be made once an exam has been taken. If you have a letter from their office indicating

that you have a disability which requires academic accommodations, please fax the letter to 480/965-2659, attn: Professor (named on page 1 of syllabus) or scan and email the letter to [MUS355@gmail.com](mailto:MUS355@gmail.com) or have DRC personnel email that address with your information no later than the end of the first week of the semester. If you qualify as a DRC student, please contact Computer Support immediately regarding any necessary online accommodations. No special accommodations can be given without prior official DRC documentation. Sorry, accommodations cannot be made retroactively

### **Adding, Dropping, and Withdrawing:**

If you wish to withdraw from this course, it is your responsibility to do so. Course registration changes are processed through My ASU: <http://my.asu.edu>.

Please visit <http://students.asu.edu/drop-add> or speak with your advisor or college major office for complete information regarding Withdraw dates and policies. No late W grades are available, and the grade of I (Incomplete) is no longer an option for MUS 355. As per university policy, students do not qualify for Academic W status if they are not doing acceptable or passing work. ASU policy does not allow an instructor to assign a W simply because a student is dissatisfied with the grade earned.

### **Title IX Statement:**

Title IX is a federal law that provides that no person be excluded on the basis of sex from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. Both Title IX and university policy make clear that sexual violence and harassment based on sex is prohibited. An individual who believes they have been subjected to sexual violence or harassed on the basis of sex can seek support, including counseling and academic support, from the university. If you or someone you know has been harassed on the basis of sex or sexually assaulted, you can find information and resources at <https://sexualviolenceprevention.asu.edu/>.

As an employee of ASU, I am a mandated reporter and obligated to report instances of reported or suspected incidences of sexual harassment.

### **Policy on Sexual Discrimination:**

Policy on sexual discrimination as described in ACD 401, "Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation", including the fact that the instructor is a mandated reporter and therefore obligated to report any information regarding alleged acts of sexual discrimination. Arizona State University is committed to providing an environment free of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation for the entire university community, including all students, faculty members, staff employees, and guests. ASU expressly prohibits discrimination, harassment, and retaliation by employees, students, contractors, or agents of the university based on any protected status: race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and genetic information.

### **Anti-Discrimination Statement: <authored by HIDA students>**

The Herberger Institute of Design and the Arts at Arizona State University upholds, values, and cherishes student and faculty diversity, no matter the circumstance. As

members of the ASU community, we are charged with challenging injustices and social inequities of any kind through education. These values are an integral part of our standing as an institution and must be upheld by all members of the ASU community, including but not limited to all Herberger Institute of Design and the Arts staff, faculty and students. The call is clear and present at ASU for every member of our community to do their part in fostering a culture of Inclusive Excellence that contributes meaningfully to lasting equity for all. For students and faculty alike, this culture of Inclusive Excellence creates role models, broadens perspectives, combats negative stereotyping and enables artists, designers and makers of the 21st century to think creatively, critically and, above all, compassionately about our impact on the world at large.

This course and Arizona State University welcomes all students regardless of race/ethnicity, gender identities, gender expressions, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, disabilities, religion, regional background, Veteran status, citizenship status, nationality and other diverse identities that we each bring to class. Each of us bear intersectional perspectives that are born out of our backgrounds and identities, and each of us has a contribution to make towards our culture of Inclusive Excellence. As your instructor, I expect that all of my students abide by the following community agreements:

- to bring a willingness to deeply inspect your own assumptions about the world, identifying areas in which you may need to unlearn implicit biases and behaviors
- to help others learn by respectfully voicing your thoughts and reactions, acknowledging that they are partial to and shaped by the way you make sense of the world
- to demonstrate a curious and eager inquiry into how others make sense of the world

Diversity of experiences, backgrounds and opinions are essential to cultivating a rich academic environment which in turn strengthens our capacity to be ethical and empathetic creative-thinkers. I aim for students of all backgrounds to be well served by this course and that the diversity students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. The materials of this course, including readings and assignments, will reflect this commitment to diverse and inclusive knowledge. If a student feels that there has been a discrepancy between my teaching practices and the university's commitment to Inclusive Excellence, you are encouraged to discuss your concerns directly with me. I value your learning experience and welcome all opportunities to enrich the efficacy of this course for all student groups. Here are resources available to all students to report incidents of bias, harassment, and other forms of discrimination inside and outside the classroom:

- Unsure of whether the concern you experience or witness falls under the criteria of bias, harassment, and other forms of discrimination? You can fill out the Herberger Institute Community of Care form at [herbergerinstitute.asu.edu/caring](https://herbergerinstitute.asu.edu/caring) describing the situation. One of the members of the Herberger Institute Behavioral Response Team will connect with you.
- Anyone who believes that they have been subjected to discrimination, harassment, or retaliation in violation of this policy, or who believes that this

policy has been violated, should report the matter immediately to the Office of University Rights and Responsibilities or the Dean of Students office or directly fill out an incident report.

- Unless a person is restricted by law from doing so, any employee who is informed of or has a reasonable basis to believe that sexual harassment has occurred, shall immediately report all information regarding the occurrence(s) to the Office of University Rights and Responsibilities or the Title IX Coordinator or the Dean of Students office.
- More reporting pathways are available to students on the University's Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation policy page.