

Music 129, Section 5
American Society and Its Music
Fall 2011
Introduction

- Instructor: Professor Gary Dilworth
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- Text: The seventh edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* may be purchased from the Hornet Bookstore.
- An online E-book version of *America's Musical Landscape* by Jean Ferris may be purchased from the publisher at:
www.mcgrawhillcreate.com/shop. The E-Book text is REVISED – it only contains the chapters that will be covered in this class. ISBN: 9781121220454 .
- You will need to purchase the Audio CD Collection that accompanies the Ferris text separately, from the Hornet Bookstore.
- Description: Introduction to significant forms of American music through reading, recordings and video. Includes the Basic Properties of Musical Sound, The Growth of Vernacular Traditions, The Rise of Popular Culture, The Jazz Age, Jazz 1930–1960, Country Music, Latin Popular Musics, Vernacular Musics Since Rock and Roll, Rock and Roll, Jazz Since 1960, Popular Music Since 1970, Music for Theater and Film, American Opera, Tradition and Innovation in Concert Music, Experimental Music: Revolution, Early Twentieth-Century Mainstream Concert Music, the Avant-Garde and Recent Mainstream.
- Objectives: The course will provide you with a basic understanding of American music. It will not make you a musician or teach you how to write music. It will however, give you the necessary background to listen, understand, and write about music at an educated level. The course will concentrate on (a) reading about the significant developments in American music through the textbook, (b) listening and viewing examples of the different styles of music through compact discs and streamed video and (c) writing five essays and taking two examinations.
- Class Meetings: There are no class meetings for this course.
- Course Format: America Society and Its Music is offered using the resources of the World Wide Web. There will be no lectures in this course. Actually, you will be

at the opposite pole of the lecture paradigm. In this course, you are expected to learn concepts, solve problems, and complete projects independently. This will be a major component of the learning experience. Except for the Audio CD collection, this is a fully paperless class. The syllabus, assignments, grade book, essays, video and examinations will be accessed electronically through SacCT (<http://online.csus.edu>). Electronic mail (email) will be the main source of information and interaction.

Evaluation: Grading will be based on the following point averages:
5 essays (100 points each)
Examination I (100 points)
Examination II (100 points)

Assignments: A weekly schedule of classes is part of the online materials. Students are expected to keep up with the schedule. You may work ahead at your own pace and submit assignments early. **However, the five essay assignments and two exams will not be accepted late.**

Assignment Due Dates (due by midnight on each date):
Essay No. 1 – September 23, 2011
Essay No. 2 – October 7, 2011
Essay No. 3 – October 21, 2011
Essay No. 4 – November 4, 2011
Essay No. 5 – November 18, 2011

Examination Due Dates (due by midnight on each date):
Examination I – October 7, 2011
Examination II – December 9, 2011

Grading:
A composite of written assignments and quizzes will yield a percent.

A = 94-100	A- = 90-93	
B+ = 87-89	B = 84-86	B- = 80-83
C+ = 77-79	C = 74-76	C- = 70-73
D+ = 67-69	D = 64-66	D- = 60-63
	F = 0-59	