

Course Director: Ray Williams

E-mail: ray@blackmusic.ca

Website: www.blackmusic.ca

Course Description and Content:

This course explores in depth the range of African-American popular music that came into existence during the 1920's. Numerous styles and genres will be studied from various points of view (musicological, sociological & theoretical) and a wide variety of structural forms and musical techniques will be analyzed. The historical context as relates to the development of this music will be explored. The experiences of the personalities will also be studied in an effort to gain greater understanding of their artistic development and contribution.

Schedule: Class meets on Wed in **ACW 206:** Section A: 8:30-10:30 AM; Section B: 7:00-9:00 PM

Recommended: Movie "Why Do Fools Fall In Love" recommended.

Requirements: Notebook, pen and ears. Tests require pencil and eraser. This course has no text book.

Academic Honesty: Please note the Senate Policy on academic honesty found on the York website at <http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/legislation/senate/acadhone.htm>. Any form of cheating will result in a mark of zero.

Assignment Submission: All assignments are to be submitted directly to the instructor during class time. If this is not possible, you may submit your assignments to the Music Office in Accolade East Building 3rd Floor [371] before 3:00PM during working days. Assignments must be time-stamped by the Music Office reception personnel.

Evaluation and Grading:

Listening Journal	30
Tests (in class "listening", context, terminology, analysis, genre)	40
Attendance, Effort & Participation	30

TOTAL **100**

Last Date to Drop without Academic Penalty: February 10, 2012

Topic Schedule and Due Dates: *(These dates may change, check course website to confirm dates)*

2011

- Sep 7, 2011 Introduction: Terms, Early Blues, Jazz
- Sep 14 – Oct 5 Icons: Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday, Nat King Cole, Ray Charles
- **October 26** **Test 1 (10%)**
- Oct 19 – Nov 23 Frankie Lymon & Doo Wop, Motown, Stax, James Brown, Aretha Franklin
- **November 30** **Test 2 (15%)**

2012

- **Jan 4, 2012** **Listening Journal due (30%)** [Due at the end of class]
- Jan 5 – Feb 29 The 70s - TSOP, Funk, Disco, Gamble & Huff, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder
- **March 7** **Test 3 (15%)**
- Mar 14 - 28 Special Guest, Journal return, Wrap-up

No classes

Oct 12, Feb 22

Listening Journal:

You are required to listen to African-American popular music performed by African-American artists and record information about this music in a Listening Journal. The Journal should be divided into two sections. The first must cover music up to and including 1969 and the second music between 1970 and 1990. The Journal may be hand written but it must be well presented. The Journal will consist of separate entries for each song you listen to. In these entries, you should write about your personal feeling about each song. There must be no duplicate entries [i.e. same song by the same artist] as these entries will result in mark deductions. There must be a table of content and the pages must be numbered. The journal should explore a minimum of 150 songs and be at least 30 pages long. Entries should list factual data about each song, which may include, but is not limited to: artist name, song name, composer, release date, record label and chart peak position. Plagiarism, especially cut/paste from the Internet, will result in deductions of up to 100%. The journal should not contain songs played in class or any song listed in bold in the song book.

Journals are due at the end of class on **January 4, 2012**. Any journal submitted late will result in a minimum 10% deduction – no exceptions. If you are unable to submit your journal at the end of class, then it can be submitted to the Music Office at Accolade East Building 3rd Floor [Room 371]. Please ensure that any journal submitted at the Music Office is time stamped to prove the date it was submitted. Do not hand your journal to anyone but office staff. If you arrive at the Music Office when it is closed, do not slide your journal under doors or leave it in open areas. Make sure it is securely received by the staff in the Music Office.