



# ILLINOIS VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## COURSE OUTLINE

**DIVISION:** Humanities, Fine Arts and Social Science (HFASS)

**COURSE:** MUS 1090 Introduction to American Music

**Effective Date:** Fall 2026

**Submitted Date:** Nov-25

**Credit Hours:** 3

**IAI Number (if applicable):** F1904

*Complete all that apply or mark "None" where appropriate:*

Prerequisite(s): None

Enrollment by assessment or other measure?  Yes  No

If yes, please describe:

Corequisite(s): None

Pre- or Corequisite(s): None

Consent of Instructor:  Yes  No

Delivery Method: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Lecture</b>	<b>3 Contact Hours</b> (1 contact = 1 credit hour)
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Seminar</b>	<b>0 Contact Hours</b> (1 contact = 1 credit hour)
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Lab</b>	<b>0 Contact Hours</b> (2-3 contact = 1 credit hour)
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Clinical</b>	<b>0 Contact Hours</b> (3 contact = 1 credit hour)
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Practicum</b>	<b>0 Contact Hours</b> (5 contact = 1 credit hour)
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Internship</b>	<b>0 Contact Hours</b> (5 contact = 1 credit hour)

Offered:  **Fall**  **Spring**  **Summer**

### CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

An introductory course that explores American music, its history and development, its composers, and its major cultural contributions to the world of music. Through readings, class discussion, listening, videos, and performance attendance, this course will promote an understanding of classical; jazz and popular forms; indigenous, traditional, and folk music; rock and roll; and music from WWII to the modern day.

**IAI Number (if applicable):** F1904 (pending IAI approval)

## **ACCREDITATION STATEMENTS AND COURSE NOTES:**

None.

## **COURSE TOPICS AND CONTENT REQUIREMENTS:**

- I. America's Music from Colonization through the Civil War
  - a. Sacred music in the European Colonies
  - b. Secular music in the Colonies and Early Republic
  - c. Sacred music in the New Republic
  - d. African American music before the Civil War
  - e. Cultivating musical tastes in Antebellum America
  - f. Minstrelsy and popular song through the Civil War
  
- II. America's Music from the Civil War through WWI
  - a. American Indian music, folk songs, spirituals, and their collectors
  - b. Band music, gospel hymns, and popular songs after the Civil War
  - c. Classical music comes of age
  - d. Popular music, theater, and dances at the turn of the century
  
- III. America's Music from WWI through WWII
  - a. The rise of Blues and gospel music
  - b. Jazz in the modern era
  - c. Country and Folk music in the modern era
  - d. Popular songs on stage and screen
  - e. Concert music in the modern era
  - f. Modernist music during and after the Great Depression
  
- IV. America's music in the Postwar Era
  - a. Classical music in the Postwar era
  - b. Jazz, musical theater, and film music in the Postwar era
  - c. Country and folk music in the Postwar era
  - d. Popular music in the Late Postwar era
  
- V. America's Music since 1980
  - a. Classical music since 1980
  - b. Film music, jazz, musical theater since 1980
  - c. Folk music since 1980
  - d. Popular music since 1980, Part 1
  - e. Popular music since 1980, Part 2

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:**

Lecture, discussion and in-class collaborative activities, online and offline recordings and videos, slides, and live musical performances

**EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:**

Homework, quizzes, tests, written assignments (research essays), class participation, composer projects, and concert evaluations

**INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:****Textbooks**

Crawford, R., & Hamberlin, L. *An introduction to America's music* (most recent edition). W. W. Norton. <https://wwnorton.com/books/9780393668285/for-instructors>.

Or, a similar Intro to American Music textbook by a major publisher.

Or, a similar OER online textbook from a reputable academic publisher.

Part-Time and Dual Credit instructors should discuss the textbook adoption with the academic dean.

**Resources**

Access to a computer with Internet

Online content

Additional readings from other texts

**LEARNING OUTCOMES AND GOALS:****Institutional Learning Outcomes**

- 1) Communication – to communicate effectively.
- 2) Inquiry – to apply critical, logical, creative, aesthetic, or quantitative analytical reasoning to formulate a judgement or conclusion.
- 3) Social Consciousness – to understand what it means to be a socially conscious person, locally and globally.
- 4) Responsibility – to recognize how personal choices affect self and society

**Course Outcomes and Competencies**

1. The student will understand the elements and fundamentals of music, including rhythm, melody, harmony, texture, form, instrumentation, tempo, and dynamics
  - 1.1. Students will be able to aurally recognize various rhythmic and metric patterns in a piece of music.
  - 1.2. Students will be able to aurally recognize and distinguish between melodic and harmonic elements in a piece of music.

- 1.3. Students will be able to aurally recognize and distinguish between the various standard musical textures: monophonic, homophonic, polyphonic, and heterophonic.
  - 1.4. Students will be able to aurally recognize various formal designs.
  - 1.5. Students will be able to aurally recognize instrumentation.
  - 1.6. Students will be able to aurally recognize various tempi.
  - 1.7. Students will be able to aurally recognize dynamic levels.
2. The student will be able to identify and distinguish broad streams of American music
    - 2.1. Students will be able to aurally recognize elements of Neo-Classical music.
    - 2.2. Students will be able to aurally recognize elements of Folk and Indigenous music.
    - 2.3. Students will be able to aurally recognize elements of Blues and Jazz.
    - 2.4. Students will be able to aurally recognize elements of Popular Music.
    - 2.5. Students will be able to aurally recognize elements of Rock music.
3. The student will understand the relationship between music and culture through the study of American music history and its relationship to civilization and art.
    - 3.1 Students will be able to recognize the sociocultural development of Classical, Folk and Indigenous, Popular, Jazz, and Rock music in the US from the 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.
    - 3.2 Students will be able to visually and aurally recognize period works of art including those from the fields of architecture, visual arts, and music.
    - 3.3 Students will be able to recognize parallels between social, political, and artistic trends.
4. The student will understand the musical techniques and devices by which American composers create indigenous classical and popular forms
    - 4.1. Students will be able to identify instrumentation specific to the US in various historical periods.
    - 4.2. Students will be able to identify instrumentation specific to the US in various musical styles.
    - 4.3. Students will be able to aurally identify rhythms which are associated with various types of American music.

- 4.4. Students will be able to aurally identify stylistic differences associated with various types of American music.
- 4.5. Students will be able to explain the origin and development of the “Band Tradition” in the US.