

**Course Objectives/Course Outline**  
**Spokane Community College**

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**Course Title:** History of Popular Music

**Prefix and Course Number:** MUSC 106

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**Course Learning Outcomes:**

**By the end of this course, a student should be able to:**

- Students will be able to recognize popular musical styles from the mid-19th Century to the near present.
- Students will be able to name the artists most closely associated with each style, and name the time period during which each style was popular.
- Students will be able to describe how society and popular music interacted in the past, and compare those interactions to the way we perceive popular music now.
- Students will be able to compare popular musical styles from different time periods in order to interpret the influences of a style on styles that followed it.
- Students will be able to analyze a popular song's characteristics in order to determine its origin and influences.

**Course Outline:**

- I. The Beginnings of American Popular Music: Sources from Santeria to European folk music to European art music.
  - A. The Minstrel Show
  - B. Marching and concert bands were at their height of popularity, and would later adapt their instrumentation to the growing influence of African rhythms and sounds.
  - C. Vaudeville and Tin Pan Alley
- II. The Emergence of Black music: Ragtime, Syncopated Dance Music, Early Commercial Blues, and Early Jazz.
  - A. Ben Harney & Scott Joplin
  - B. Player pianos
  - C. Ragtime evolves into the "animal dances" (e.g., the fox-trot)
  - D. W.C. Handy, Bessie Smith and the Blues
  - E. Early jazz styles
- III. Popular song in the Modern Era: Music, Society, and Technology.
  - A. Thomas Edison's phonograph
  - B. Microphone technology
  - C. Commercial radio stations
  - D. Synchronized sound for motion pictures ("talkies")
  - E. The Charleston and other dance crazes
- IV. The Swing Era.
  - A. Big Band Swing
  - B. Jazz Bands that feature more improvisation
- V. Rural Blues & Black Gospel lend their influence.
  - A. Country/Delta blues
  - B. Up-tempo "good time" blues
  - C. Gospel quartets & soloists

- VI. Influences of Country & Folk Music
  - A. The emergence of country music
  - B. Country music's seminal acts
  - C. How Country got Western
  - D. Folk music in the 1930s & '40s
  - E. Honky-Tonk
  - F. Bluegrass
- VII. Latin Music in the United States, 1900-1950s.
  - A. 1900-1940: Don Azipazú & His Havana Casino Orchestra; Xavier Cugat.
  - B. 1940-1960: Tito Puente & His Band.
- VIII. Popular Music Matures: Musical Theater, Modern Jazz, & Song Interpretation.
  - A. The Influence of Television
  - B. The Golden Age of Musical Theater
  - C. Modern Jazz
  - D. Popular Song Interpretation
- IX. Rhythm & Blues, 1946-1954.
  - A. The Emergence of R&B
  - B. Electric Blues
  - C. Early Doo-Wop
- X. Rock & Roll.
  - A. Rock & Roll Begins
  - B. The Architects of Rock & Roll
  - C. Rock & Roll "goes viral"
  - D. Doo-Wop in the late 1950s
  - E. R&B soloists in the late 1950s
- XI. The Rock Revolution, 1964-1970.
  - A. Bob Dylan
  - B. The Beatles
  - C. Motown
  - D. Rock (The Rolling Stones, Eric Clapton, Jimi Hendrix)
  - E. Soul
  - F. San Francisco and the diversity of rock
- XII. Rock and R&B after 1970.
  - A. Commerce & Technology in 1970s rock
  - B. Rock in the early 1970s
  - C. Black pop in the 1970s
  - D. Gender, art, & the boundaries of rock
  - E. The art of recording
- XIII. New Trends of the 1970s.
  - A. Funk:
  - B. Reggae
  - C. Disco
  - D. Punk & New Wave
- XIV. Latin Music after 1960.
  - A. The Bossa Nova and Brazilian Music
  - B. Tejano
  - C. Salsa & Tropical Latin Music
- XV. Country Music in the Rock Era.
  - A. Countrifying rock

- B. The outsiders
- C. Country royalty
- D. The explosion of country music
- E. Country, pop & glamour
- XVI. Electronica & Rap.
  - A. The digital revolution
  - B. Early electronica
  - C. Electronica and the mainstream
  - D. Early rap
  - E. Mainstreaming rap
- XVII. Beyond Rock in the 1980s.
  - A. MTV and insider/outsider fusions
  - B. Pop in the 1980s
  - C. Post-Punk/Post-Disco fusions
  - D. The maturation of Black pop
  - E. Rock-Pop hybrids
  - F. Significant rock
  - G. Renewing rock & roll
- XVIII. Alternatives.
  - A. From Punk to Alternative
  - B. Metal and Alternative fusions in the 1980s-90s
  - C. Alienation
  - D. Women's voices
- XIX. A World of Music.
  - A. World Music
  - B. Afro-Pop
  - C. Global/Pop fusions
  - D. Celtic fusions