

NORTH AMERICAN ROOTS MUSIC: SPRING 2005

MU 208.01

CT WO10

Dr. Boomgaarden

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Office hours: Thursdays, 11-12, by appointment, or after any class

- 01/18T Introduction
- 01/20R Historical Background and Basic Music Theory of Folk Songs
- 01/25T **Assignment I: Autobiography Due – Class Discussion**
Groups for Assignment II Form/Discuss Song Plots
- 01/27R Roots of Modern Folk Music
Quiz I: Lornell Chapter I
Groups for Assignment II Meet
- 02/02T **Assignment II: Class Songs Due**
- 02/03R Early Blues, Folk, and the Recording Industry
Quiz II: Lornell Chapter 2
- 02/08T Jerry Reed and Chet Atkins
- 02/10R Fieldwork and Interviews
Quiz III: Lornell Chapter 3
- 02/15T **Exam I and Notebook Check**
Notebook Due In Class (to be checked during exam) – Lornell Items in Chapters 1-3 as well as all of the Roots CD selections
- 02/17R Anglo-American Secular Folk Music
Quiz IV: Lornell Chapter 4
- 02/22T Anglo-American Secular Folk Music continued
Clear Bluegrass CD with Instructor for Assignment III
- 02/24R Anglo-American Sacred Music
Quiz V: Lornell Chapter 5

03/01T Anglo-American Sacred Music continued

03/03R *That High Lonesome Sound*

03/08 No Class -- SPRING BREAK (03/07-11)

03/15T African-American Religious Folk Music
Quiz VI: Lornell Chapter 6

03/17R African American Religious Folk Music Continued

03/22T **Exam II and Notebook Check**
Notebook Due in Class – All Lornell Items from Chapters 4-6 as well as all the selections on your Bluegrass CD selected on Feb. 22

03/24R No Class -- EASTER VACATION BEGINS

03/29T African-American Secular Folk Music
Quiz VII: Lornell Chapter 7

03/31R Blues Greats
Assignment III: Bluegrass CD Review Due

04/05T Ethnic Musical Traditions I
Quiz VIII: Lornell Chapter 8
Clear Group/Artist with Instructor for Assignment IV

04/07R Discussion on Presentation Assignment: How to Present Your Artist/Group

04/12T Ethnic Musical Traditions II
Quiz IX: Lornell Chapter 9

04/14R *Bill Monroe: Father of Bluegrass Music*

04/19T Folk Revivals
Quiz X: Lornell Chapter 10

04/21R Folk Roots of Popular Music
Quiz XI: Lornell Chapter 11

04/26T **Presentations (Assignment IV)**

04/28R **Presentations**

05/03 Study Day

FINAL EXAM and FINAL NOTEBOOK CHECK: Thursday, May 12, 1 PM

GRADING

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 2 Exams | 20% |
| Final Exam | 10% |
| Quizzes | 10% (Average of all Quizzes) |
| Notebook | 10% (Average of grades on the three Notebook Checks) |
| Assignments | 40% |
| Participation | 10% Includes answering questions in class, participation in singing (yes, I said singing), discussions, coming on time, having a good attitude, being kind to classmates. If you want to sit and be very quite and not get involved, this is not the class for you. <i>Special Note:</i> Violations of the Loyola Honor Code will be treated seriously, and could result in failure in the course, or an 'F' on a given assignment. The temptation to abuse web-based materials in this type of course is powerful – please do not yield to it. |

ABSENCE POLICY

Two absences are allowed. No excused absences. Each absence over 2 results in lowering the final grade by five points. **SPECIAL NOTE:** Assignments are due on the date established unless you make prior arrangements with me. For each calendar day that a paper is late you grade will be lowered one step (e.g., B to B-).

HONOR CODE

“All students of the Loyola Community have been equally entrusted by their peers to conduct themselves honestly on all academic assignments. The students of this College understand that having collective and individual responsibility for the ethical welfare of their peers exemplifies a commitment to the community. Students who submit materials that are products of their own minds demonstrate respect for themselves and the community in which they study. All outside resources or information should be clearly acknowledged. If there is any doubt or question regarding the use and documentation of outside sources for academic assignments, your instructor should be consulted.” Please refer to the College Catalogue and Student Handbook for further explanation of the Honor Code and refer to the plagiarism statement below for further information regarding correct citation. All work submitted in this course should be signed. Your signature denotes your agreement with the following statement:

“I understand and will uphold the ideals of academic honesty as stated in the Honor Code.”

ASSIGNMENTS

- I. Write a 3 page autobiography and discuss your experiences in music. Mention specific influences (family, close friends) and what types of music you have had the most contact with. Include information on your own performances and music making. You will read your autobiography to the class.
- II. Write a ballad and perform this in class. This will be done as a group assignment.
- III. Select a Bluegrass CD, approved by me by February 22, and review it. Your review should be at least three pages and follow the model of reviews presented in class. You must also use the special term sheet provided in class. Use of 'important terms' is mandatory. *Get an early start on this one.*
- IV. Select an artist or group (cleared by me by April 5) and present their work to the class. Include a handout, biography, discography, and the analysis of one song. You must also place at least 7 one-page entries on your artist/group in your final notebook (see below). Use of 'important terms' is mandatory.

NOTEBOOK

Keep a three-ring binder (no spiral notebooks) in which you make one-page entries on all 27 songs of the Lornell CD, all the songs of the Roots Highlights CD, and 7 songs by your final project group/artist. You may also be asked to include other musical items over the course of the semester. Extra credit can be earned by including other pieces as long as they are related to our course. Entries must include:

Performer

Performing forces (instruments)

Date of Performance

Genre (type of work)

Personal Comments : at least two paragraphs on the form of the song, the meaning of the text (if there is one), how the piece relates to other works discussed in class or in readings, and your own reaction to the work. Use of 'important terms' is mandatory.

LEARNING GOALS

By the end of the semester you will be able to:

Analyze the forms and structures of the most common forms of folk music.
Place examples of North American folk music in their historical context.
Write and perform simple folk-like works of music, including ballads and blues works.

Read, summarize and explain articles relating to North American folk music.

Recognize and describe the important historical movements in North American folk music.

Learn the basic vocabulary of music theory and analysis.

Important Terms You Will Learn This Semester

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|--|--|
| Rhythm | beat meter syncopation tempo | upbeat downbeat duple cut time | triple asymmetrical polyrhythm time signature |
| Pitch | tone Lydian, Mixolydian) register interval tonic/dominant unison/second/third/fourth/fifth/sixth/seventh/octave | scales pentatonic blue note leading tone incipit | mode (Dorian, Phrygian, voice ranges semitone/microtone major/minor timbre |
| Melody | phrase | sequence | conjunct/disjunct |
| Harmony | chord mediant/submediant chromatic key signature | triad seventh diatonic inversion | tonic/dominant/subdominant polychord modal drone/pedal point |
| Texture | monophonic polyphonic | heterophonic acappella | homophonic antiphonal |
| Form | binary free sonata form | ternary theme and variations round/catch | rondo strophic verse/refrain |
| Expression | rubato crescendo/decrescendo piano/mezzo piano/forte/ | adagio/andante/allegro/vivace vibrato fortissimo | dynamics sforzando |