COURSE SYLLABUS

Twentieth-Century American Music and Politics
FYWS 151
CRN 12730
Fall 2011

MWF 9:00-9:50 a.m.
100 HASSELL HALL

Instructor: Dr. Carole Blankenship
Office: 203 Hassell
Office hours: 8:30-9:30 Tuesdays, 9-10 Thursdays, and by appointment
Phone: 843-3414 or 274-2195
E-mail: Blankenship@rhodes.edu

Course Description and Objectives

This course will focus on the development of critical thinking and writing skills through the study of the American political culture and its affect on the music, composers, and entertainers of the twentieth century. The student will consider twentieth-century American music by analyzing and listening to political songs, music surrounding the wars, protest music, and music stemming from the civil rights movement as well as examine the contribution of the American taxpayer toward the development of art music. Students will be expected to express their own views both about the music being studied and the larger question of the role of music and art in democratic society.

Required texts


Additional Texts in Barret Library
Diane Hacker, A Writer’s Reference.

Additional Texts on Moodle
Music 151: Grading Criteria

All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Grades for assignments turned in one day late will be lowered by a full letter grade (e.g. A to B); assignments more than one day late, incomplete assignments, and illegible assignments will not be accepted. All written assignments must be printed and will not be accepted via e-mail.

15% Participation – Students are required to actively participate in class discussions and workshops. Students who are absent more than four times will receive no credit for participation.

75% Written Assignments – 6 Essays of varying lengths

- 10% Essay 1 (1000 words) Note calendar for due dates for topics, outlines, etc.
- 10% Essay 2 (1500 words)
- 10% Essay 3 (1500 words)
- 10% 2 live performances of Twentieth-century music with critical essays (700-800 words)
  Choose from:
  October 10, 7:30 p.m., Evergreen Church
  American Music Recital, Rhodes Faculty and Friends
  October 28, 8:00 p.m., The Warehouse, 36 East GE Patterson Avenue
  Bobby Rush in Concert with the Bo-Keys
  November 6, 3:30 p.m., Evergreen Church
  Concert of 21st century American music, Rhodes Chorale and Memphis Symphony
  November 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, and 20 7:30 p.m., McCoy Theatre, Rhodes College
  Urinetown by Mark Hollmann
  Each essay is due one week after the performance is attended.
- 5% response essay to Springfield lecture, (300-500 words).

November 2, 7:30 p.m., Evergreen Church
  The Springfield Music Lecture; Jennifer Higdon, composer
- 30% Research Essay, (3000-3500 words).

All assignments should be typed, twelve point font (Palatino or Times New Roman), double-spaced, and should have a cover page with the following: name, word count, date, and a meaningful title. Essays should have page numbers and be affixed with either a clip or staple. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in a penalty on the essay’s grade.
Any use of sources must be cited using Chicago-style footnotes. See the Short Guide to Writing about Music, http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html, or you may ask the instructor. Class time will also be dedicated to discussion of good footnotes.
Assignments should be sent via e-mail before class and turned in as hard copy at the beginning of class. See the course schedule for due dates.

The research paper will encompass a topic chosen by the student and approved by the professor. Example topics for research papers: “Political Texts in Marc Blitzstein’s The Cradle Will Rock,” “Gangsta Rap in Los Angeles in the early 1990’s,” “Government Funding for Composers in Tennessee from 1980 to 2000,” etc...
This paper will be written in stages: abstract and bibliography, outline, first draft, etc. See the schedule below for due dates.

10% Final Exam - Students will be given a take home exam that is to be completed and turned in by Saturday, December 11, 5:30 p.m.

►Course Grading Scale: A=93-100; B=83-87; C=73-77; D=64-67
E-mail: All e-mail correspondence will be sent to your Rhodes e-mail account which should be checked regularly. E-mails are not text messages. When writing me, your e-mails should be professional.

Laptops: The use of laptop computers or other screen-based devices is not permitted during lectures or discussions unless you have a medical reason. Please talk with me if a laptop is necessary.

The Writing Center (Barret 122) is an excellent resource for all writers at Rhodes. A trained staff member will work with you one-on-one and provide assistance with style, organization, content, voice, grammar, and documentation standards. For more information, visit www.rhodes.edu/writingcenter. Each student is required to make an appointment and meet with a staff member of the writing center once during the first two essay assignments. Failure to meet this requirement will result in a 5 point deduction from the final grade.

- Enrollment in the class acknowledges the requirements stated in the syllabus.
- The honor code applies to all elements of the course.
- The signed honor pledge should be included on all work submitted.

## Music 151: Course Schedule (subject to change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 24</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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| Aug 26 | The beginning of the century  
*American Popular Music; From Minstrelsy to MP3*. Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 |
| Aug 29 | Essay Writing, Writing about Music, Choosing a topic  
*A Short Guide to Writing about Music*. pp. 1-10, and 72-82. |
| Aug 31 | Early 20th-century “Art Music”  
Gann, *American Music in the Twentieth Century*. Prelude and Chapter 1  
**Topic for first essay due in class** |
| Sept 2 | Lawrence Kramer, “Music and the Politics of Memory,” *Journal of the Society for American Music*  
**Footnote assignment due** |
| Sept 5 | Labor Day Holiday |
| Sept 7 | **Outline for first essay due in class**  
R. Serge Denisoff, “Songs of Persuasion and Their Entrepreneurs,”  
*Sing a Song of Social Significance*. pp. vii-x, 1-18. |
| Sept 12 | **First draft of essay due in class; Workshop in class** |
| Sept 14 | The 1920’s, Henry Cowell and Ruth Crawford Seeger  
Gann, Chapter 2  
**Final draft of first essay due in class** |
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<tr>
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<th>Assignment/Activity</th>
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| Sept 16 | Early Blues and Jazz  
Starr, Chapters 4 and 5 |
| Sept 19 | Stanley Crouch, “Blues to be Constitutional,” from *Democracy and the Arts.* |
| Sept 21 | The Great Depression, Federal Music Project, Federal Theatre Project  
Gann, Chapter 3  
**Topic for Second Essay due in class** |
Continue discussion of Gann, Chapter 3 |
| Sept 26 | Secondary Sources through Barret Library  
**Meet for class in Barret 128** |
| Sept 28 | Swing and Country & Western  
Readings: Starr, Chapter 6  
**Outline and introductory paragraph for Second Essay due in class** |
| Sept 30 | Lieberman, “‘This Machine Kills Fascists’: Communism, Antifascism, and People’s Music during WWII,” in *My Song is My Weapon,* pp. 50-83. |
| Oct 3 | **First draft of Second Essay due in class:** Workshop in class |
| Oct 5 | Experimentalism  
Gann: Chap. 4, page 76-83, Chap. 5, pgs. 102-111 |
| Oct 7 | Experimentalism  
Gann: Chap. 6  
**Approved research topic due on or before October 7** |
| Oct 10 | Sarah McCall, *The Musical Fallout of Political Activism,* Chapter IV.  
Bring two questions about this reading to class for discussion.  
**7:30 p.m., American Music Recital, Rhodes Faculty and Friends, Evergreen Church** |
| Oct 12 | **Final draft of Second Essay due in class**  
| Oct 14 | Starr, Chapter 7  
**Topic of Third Essay due in class** |
| Oct 19 | John Cage and Christian Wolff  
Gann, Chapter 6, pp. 127-140 and pp. 148-151 |
| Oct 21 | **View Video on Moodle:** *I have nothing to say and I am saying it.*  
Discuss in class |
| Oct 24 | **No Class** |
| Oct 26 | Evidence—what counts as evidence?  
Writing a research essay |
| Oct 28 | The 1960’s  
Starr, Chapter 9  
**Outline of Third Essay due in class** |
Oct 31 1968
Starr, Chapter 10
250 word abstract and bibliography of research essay due in class

Nov 2
View Video on Moodle: The U.S. vs. John Lennon,
Discuss in class

Nov 2
7:30 p.m. Evergreen Church, Springfield Lecture

Nov 4
Presentation of research topics
(2-3 minutes) description and research methods
Outline of research essay due in class

Nov 7
First draft of Third Essay due in class: Workshop in class

Nov 9

Nov 11
“The Revolution will not be televised,” Starr, Chapter 11
Outsider’s Music, Starr, Chapter 12
7:30 p.m., Urinetown by Mark Hollmann (runs through Nov. 20)
McCoy Theatre, Rhodes College

Nov 14
Stax and Memphis 1970’s
Final draft of Third Essay due in class

Nov 16
Minimalism
Gann, Chapter 8, pp. 184-208

Nov 18
Gann, Chapter 9, pp. 229-233, Nixon in China by John Adams
Starr, Chapter 13

Nov 21
First draft of research essay due in class: Workshop on research essay

Nov 28
Late 20th Century Classical composers
Gann, Chapter 11

Nov 30
William Banfield, “Black Artistic Invisibility: A Black Composer Talking

Dec 2
1990’s
Starr, Chapter 14 and Chapter 15

Dec 5
Terri M. Adams and Douglas B. Fuller, “The Words Have Changed But the Ideology

Dec 7
Closing discussion

Dec 10
5:00 p.m. Final draft of research essay due-203 Hassell

Dec 13
1:00 p.m. take home final exam due-203 Hassell

The schedule and procedures in the course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.