Syllabus

UN1001: Perspectives on Inquiry, R01
American (and Other) Pie: Popular Music (So Far)

Fall 2010, CRN: 80718
MWF 8:05-8:55 a.m.
Fisher Hall 327B

Instructor: Dennis Wallakainen, PhD
dlwalkai@mtu.edu
Cell: 906-281-7625
Office: Administration and Student Services Building, Room G20
Hours: 12:00-1:00 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays and by appointment

Required Materials

Other readings as assigned

Expectations
As we explore historical, ethical, cultural, and other contexts of popular music in the US and elsewhere, influences on popular music and culture and popular music's influence on other aspects of life will also be considered. One overarching question is: how has popular music evolved and influenced the many musical genres of today: hip-hop, rap, modern country, alt-country, teen pop, techno, etc. Additional questions include: What is the relevance of popular music? What historical and cultural influences begat the musical form that became popular music? How does the musical form account for the various other genres while claiming its originality? As the major labels dominate production of music, how has that impacted what is chosen to be produced? What has online music sales done to the genre?

As do this exploring, we will begin by what is expected of you. In effect, it is a contract between us.

Absences
More than two "unexcused" absences will result in your grade being dropped by one-half letter grade per subsequent absence, regardless of your final project score. For example, in the case of a total of three unexcused absences, a final grade of AB becomes B; four unexcused absences, an AB becomes a BC, etc. Due to the highly participatory nature of this class, more than eight unexcused absences will equal automatic failure. Contact me via email regarding illness or other commitment to be excused from class. *Other absences may only be excused by an email from the Dean of Students' Office. www.sa.mtu.edu/dean

Participation—You are expected to arrive on time to class every day having read and listened to all assigned course materials, being able to actively participate in classroom discussion, and are ready to work in a team situation. You will receive a daily participation grade that will total 15 percent of your final grade. Unprepared or tardy students will lose a portion of all of their daily participation grades.

Grading—You will be graded by looking at how successfully you meet the objectives or goals of the class. Meeting objectives, however, is only the first step—in order to receive high marks you must also exceed expectations by doing work that stands out as demonstrating superior ability and knowledge.
Grading Scale—
A=100-93; AB=92-88; B=87-83; BC=82-78; C=77-73; CD=72-68;
D=67-63; F=62-0

Grading Weight—
Attendance/Participation=20 percent
Individual Response Papers=20 percent
  (Daily responses, paragraph; Formal Response papers, 1–2 pp.;
  Final Paper Proposal, 1–2 pp.)
Team paper, presentation=15 percent
Individual Final Presentation=20 percent
Final Paper=25 percent (10 pp.)

Late Work—All assignments must be turned in on time as typed, physical copies (do not email me assignments, unless you are told to do so). I will not accept late work without prior approval. On days that you are absent, you are expected to make up all missed work in a timely manner.

You will write short, daily responses to the material covered that day. During the semester, there will be longer writing assignments, including one team assignment. More details on these will come later. At the end of the semester, there will be an individual Final Paper and Presentation.

File Management—You are responsible for saving copies of all of your work for this class, should copies of your assignments be lost. Make it a habit of saving different versions of your drafts so that you have a "paper trail" should the unthinkable happen...

Instructor’s Note—Teaching is a process of constant revision; therefore, your instructor reserves the exclusive right to make changes to this syllabus and course calendar as dictated by the specific needs of this class.

Michigan Tech’s Policy on Academic Integrity—
http://www.sas.mtu.edu/usenate/proposition/06/8-06.htm
Go to the link to read more the policy. If you ever have any questions about plagiarism, or about how to cite someone else’s work properly, please talk with me or consult a coach in the Multiliteracies Center (formerly the Writing Center). The Multiliteracies Center is also a great place to get some help with your writing.

Multiliteracies Center
Walker Arts and Humanities Center, Room 107, 487-2007.
Fall and Spring Semester Hours
Monday–Thursday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Friday, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Walk-In Hours
Monday–Friday, 11:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Closed Finals Week

Michigan Tech’s Policy on Discrimination and Harassment—Michigan Tech complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. If you have a disability and need reasonable accommodation for equal access to education and services at Michigan Tech, please contact Dr. Gloria Melton, Dean of Students (phone: 7-2212). For other concerns about discrimination, you may talk with your instructor, your advisor, a department chair, or the Affirmative Action Office (phone: 7-3310).