

**Course Title:** African American/Caribbean Music  
**Course Code:** AFR 1311

---

**Course Description:** African American and Caribbean music are historically traced from their African origins. Students will examine the social functions and expressions that accompany these forms of music. In addition, students will explore the impact of African American and Caribbean music on other musical styles.

**Pre/co - requisites:** CUNY certification in reading and writing

**Required Readings:**

Kmen, Henry A. *Music in New Orleans: The Formative Years, 1791-1841*. Louisiana State University Press, 1966.

Manuel, Peter. *Caribbean Currents: From Rumba to Reggae*. Temple University Press, 1995.

Southern, Eileen. *The Music of Black Americans*. W. W. Norton & Company, 1997.

**Recommended Readings:**

Baraka, Amiri. *Blues People: Negro Music in White America*. Harper Perennial, 1999.

Nelson, George. *The Death of Rhythm and Blues*. Penguin Books, 2003.

Roberts, John Storm. *Latin Tinge: The Impact of Latin American Music on the United States*. Oxford University Press, USA, 1999.

**Format:** A lecture/discussion format will be used for this class.

**COURSE CONTENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT METHODS**

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods
Analyze how African culture(s) have influenced and shaped African American and Caribbean music;	Class discussions, quizzes, reports, and exams
Discuss the creative contributions of African American and Caribbean music;	Class discussions, quizzes, reports, and exams
Analyze African American and Caribbean music in terms of their rhythmic and stylistic variations;	Class discussions, and reports from walking tour and concert
Identify some of the major musicians who have made significant and notable contributions to African American and Caribbean music.	Class discussions, quizzes, reports, and exams

**GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES  
AND ASSESSMENT METHODS**

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods
Students will develop critical thinking and writing skills.	Class discussions, quizzes, reports, and exams
Student will develop an appreciation of music from the Africana world.	Class discussions from readings and films as well as reports from walking tour and concert

**PATHWAYS LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT METHODS**

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods
Gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources and points of view.	Class discussions from readings and films as well as reports from walking tour and concert, quizzes, reports, and exams
Evaluate evidence and arguments critically or analytically	Reports, quizzes, exams
Produce well-reasoned written or oral arguments using evidence to support conclusions.	Discussions, quizzes, reports on a walking tour and live concert, and examinations
Identify and apply the fundamental concepts and methods of a discipline or interdisciplinary field exploring creative expression, including, but not limited to, arts, communications, creative writing, media arts, music, and theater.	Class discussions from readings and films as well as reports from walking tour and concert, quizzes, reports, and exams
Analyze how arts from diverse cultures of the past serve as a foundation for those of the present, and describe the significance of works of art in the societies that created them.	Class discussions from readings and films as well as reports from walking tour and concert, quizzes, reports, and exams
Demonstrate knowledge of the skills involved in the creative process.	Class discussions from readings and films as well as reports from walking tour and concert, quizzes, reports, and exams

**SCOPE OF ASSIGNMENTS:** Various methods will be used to evaluate students' work throughout the semester. The modes of assessment support the learning outcomes:

**1) Quizzes:** Students will be expected to demonstrate their comprehension of the course materials through periodic quizzes. Four quizzes will be completed in class. The quizzes include true and false and fill in the blank questions;

**2) Field Trips/Reports:** Students will be expected to write reports after local field trips to a Jazz concert and a Harlem walking tour. These two experiential learning exercises help to foster student learning beyond the classroom setting. Following the field trips, each student must submit two typed written reports that demonstrate how the field trips help to illuminate concepts from the course readings and films;

**3) Mid-Term and Final Exams:** Students will be expected to demonstrate their understanding of the course materials by completing an in-class mid-term and final examination. The examinations are in three parts: true and false questions, fill in the blank questions, and an essay question. The mid-term exam will cover "The Introduction to African Music" to "The Jazz Age." The final exam will encompass all course units and will take place on the last day of class;

**4) Participation:** Students will be expected to share their understanding of the course materials through active participation in the class discussions. For example, weekly topics and questions serve as a framework for the course. Students are expected to offer thoughtful questions and analyses about these topics and questions, which are clearly addressed in the assigned readings and the films. Students are expected to take notes during the class lectures and discussions.

NOTE: If a student does not turn in the report and does not take the final exam, a failing grade will be given.

**GRADING PROCEDURE & SCOPE OF ASSIGNMENTS:**

Quizzes	25%
Field Trips/Reports (Jazz Concert and Harlem Walking Tour)	25%
Mid-Term Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%

Total 100%

**CLASS CONDUCT:** Students must turn off cell phones before class begins. Points will be deducted from the final average, if students consistently allow cell phones to ring in class and/or consistently leave class to answer calls. In addition, no one is allowed to wear headphones in class. Please note: Plagiarism is the act of taking someone else's words and passing them off as your own.

**New York City College of Technology Policy on Academic Integrity:**

Students and all others who work with information, ideas, texts, images, music, inventions and other intellectual property owe their audience and sources accuracy and honesty in using, crediting and citing sources. As a community of intellectual and professional workers, the College recognizes its responsibility for providing instruction in information literacy and academic integrity, offering models of good practice and responding vigilantly and appropriately to infractions of academic integrity. Accordingly, academic dishonesty is prohibited in the City University of New York and at New York City College of Technology and is punishable by penalties, including failing grades, suspension and expulsion. The complete text of the College policy on Academic Integrity may be found in the catalog.