



## PAPER OUTLINE

**Paper Code and Title:** MUSC 120 From Ragtime to Rap: African-American Music  
**CRN:** 15572      **Campus:** Kelburn  
**Year:** 2008      **Trimester:** Two  
**Points Value:** 20

**Pre-requisites (P)** None      **Co-requisites (C)** None  
**Restrictions (R)** MUSI151,  
NZSM182

**Paper Co-ordinator:** Dr Steve Perrin

**Email:** Steve.perrin@vuw.ac.nz

**Office hours:** Wednesday 12-1 or by appointment

**Class times:** Monday 11.00-11.50      **Venue:** LT 119  
Wednesday 11.00-11.50      Hunter  
Thursday 11.00-11.50

## PAPER PRESCRIPTION

A study of the origin of the major forms of African-American music in the 20th century—ragtime, blues, spirituals and gospel, and jazz—in their social and historical context, and their development into varied genres with worldwide popularity.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will study:

1. The association of African-American forms with the history of African-American people and will understand the interaction of music with its social and cultural situation.
2. The contribution of great performers and innovators within this tradition.
3. The development of African-American forms and the contribution of mass media and commercial forces in extending their popularity.

## EXPECTED WORKLOAD

A 20-point one-trimester paper should require at least 240 hours work. This means that in term time, the midterm break and study week you should be prepared to spend on average 16 hours per week attending classes, reading, listening to recommended recordings and preparing assignments.

## PAPER CONTENT

### Lecture schedule

- Week 1:** Introduction  
**Week 2:** Blues  
**Week 3:** Ragtime to Early Jazz  
**Week 4:** Jazz and New Black Music  
**Week 5:** Black pop and Rock 'n' Roll  
**Week 6:** Soul  
**Week 7:** Black Rock

**Week 8:** Disco and crossover

**Week 9:** House and Techno

**Week 10:** Early Hip Hop

**Week 11:** Late Hip Hop

**Week 12:** Review

## **MATERIALS**

### **Readings**

This paper has its own Course Reader which contains the core readings related to each lecture. Students are expected to purchase the reader (entitled MUSC 120 Ragtime to Rap, African-American music) and bring it to all classes. The reader is available from the Student Notes Distribution Centre, ground floor in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus.

It is essential that students keep up with the weekly reading schedule. To maximise learning, readings should be done prior to attending that week's lecture. At the very least, it is essential that the readings be done before the seminars as they provide the basis for discussion to which students are expected to meaningfully contribute. It is recommended that you take notes while reading and jot down the article's main points. This will enhance your critical understanding of the reading. Your notes will also come in handy as preparation tools as sections from the readings may also be included in the tests.

\*Please check Blackboard regularly for additional materials that may be posted.

### **Listening materials**

Listening to audio examples is an important aspect of this course. The examples played in class will form a part of the tests, during which selected examples will be played and students will be required to answer questions based upon them.

## **ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS**

This paper is internally assessed. There are five pieces of assessment:

In-class Test #1	(20%)	due 14 Aug
In-class Test #2	(20%)	due 9 Oct
Essay Preparation Exercise	(10%)	due 17 July
Short Essay	(20%)	due 7 Aug
Research Essay	(30%)	due 25 Sept

\*Please note: you must complete all forms of assessment in order to pass this paper.

### **In-class Tests (total 40%)**

There will be two tests, each held in the Thursday seminar class. This assessment is based on music recognition (selected from the weekly musical examples), short answer questions and multiple choice questions (relating to learning outcomes 2 and 3). Further details will be posted to Blackboard in the Assessment area about preparing for these tests. Seminars held in weeks 5 and 11 will provide help with revision for respective tests.

- Test #1 will cover material presented in Weeks 1–5
- Test #2 will cover material presented in Weeks 6–11

### **Essay Preparation Exercise (10%)**

Length: 500 words maximum. Write a short review of a recording of African-American music by any performer in any style (relating to learning outcome 2). The purpose of this assessment is to evaluate your writing ability and offer constructive feedback which should be taken onboard for your two essays.

### **Short Essay (20%)**

Length: approx. 1000 words. There will be one short essay profiling one significant African-American composer/performer of choice whose music must be related to the styles/genres discussed in weeks 1-4 (relating to learning outcome 2). A list of suggested composers/performers will be posted to Blackboard in the Assessment area in Week 2, but students may instead select a suitable composer/performer of their own choice, providing this person adheres to the criteria laid out for this assignment. You will need to reference correctly and to consult the essay guidelines posted on Blackboard.

- The Short Essay will be related to the styles/genres presented in Weeks 1–4

### **Research Essay (40%)**

Length: approx 1500 words. A list of topics will be posted to Blackboard in the Assessment area during the mid-trimester break. The essay will examine an aspect of African-American music, demonstrating a knowledge and understanding of the relationship between history, society and/or culture (relating to learning outcome 1). You will need to reference correctly and to consult the essay guidelines posted on Blackboard.

- The topics for the Research Essay may be related to material from Weeks 5–9, and/or additional sources

## **DEPOSIT AND COLLECTION OF ASSIGNMENTS**

Essays are to be deposited in hard copy to the co-ordinator's pigeon hole located inside the NZSM Office at Kelburn by 4pm on the due date. They will be stamped according to day they are handed in, and will be collected by the co-ordinator.

\*Please note: the NZSM Office closes at 4:30pm daily.

Marked assignments will be made available for students to collect from the assignment boxes located behind the common room in the NZSM quad. These boxes are marked A-Z and your assignment will be deposited in the box that corresponds with the first initial of your surname.

## **PENALTIES FOR LATE WORK**

Written work must be handed in on the due dates.

In fairness to other students, unless a medical/counselling certificate is produced, essays handed in after 4pm on the due date will be subject to a 5% demerit on your grade, increasing by 5% each further working day it is overdue.

## **EXTENSIONS FOR WRITTEN WORK**

Students who, for exceptional reasons, can justify an extension for the essay, must apply to the paper co-ordinator before the due date. Students should provide relevant documentation where appropriate (e.g. a doctor's certificate, a note from a counsellor, etc.) and specify how much of an extension is required. The co-ordinator will consider the request and give you a written response.

### Bibliographic Style:

Assignments must be presented according to the guidelines set down in the **NZSM Handbook 2007**. A fuller version entitled **NZSM Guidelines for Academic Work**, can be downloaded as a pdf file from the NZSM Website [http://www.nzsm.ac.nz/Study/Programmes of Study](http://www.nzsm.ac.nz/Study/Programmes%20of%20Study) page. Five percent (5%) will be deducted for written work that does not conform.

## **MANDATORY PAPER REQUIREMENTS**

Completing all the assessment items and attending at least 80% of your lectures and tutorials are a mandatory requirement for this paper. If for health reasons you are unable to complete all the work required for assessment purposes by 12 November you may, on presentation of a medical certificate, have the date for submission extended by the Director of the New Zealand School of Music.

Students should familiarise themselves with the NZSM's policies and statutes, especially those regarding Personal Courses of Study, Academic Grievances, and Student Conduct. Please see Statutes and Policies on the NZSM website ([http://www.nzsm.ac.nz/About/Statutes and Policies](http://www.nzsm.ac.nz/About/Statutes%20and%20Policies)).

Information about Student Services, including Academic Mentoring for Maori and Pacific Students, and support for Students with Disabilities, is to be found in the *NZSM Student Handbook 2007* (available from the NZSM offices on each campus).

## **COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, OR INFORMATION ON CHANGES**

Official notices issued after the paper has commenced will be posted on the board outside the NZSM office on the Kelburn/Mt Cook/campus. Notices concerning a number of papers will also be posted on Blackboard.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM**

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

*The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.*

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words. However, it is perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Acknowledging the use of musical materials produced by other people poses a special challenge for music students who are engaged in creative work. Your course co-ordinator will provide advice on how to avoid plagiarism in this circumstance.

Plagiarism is prohibited at the NZSM and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning,
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course,
- suspension from the course or the University.

For more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, see the NZSM website:

<http://www.nzsm.ac.nz/about/statutesandpolicies/plagiarism>.

See also <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html>

## **GENERAL NZSM POLICIES AND STATUTES**

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*regarding Personal Courses of Study, Academic Integrity and Plagiarism, Academic Grievances, and Student Conduct. Please see Statutes and Policies on the NZSM website ([www.nzsm.ac.nz](http://www.nzsm.ac.nz)). Information about Student Services, including support for Students with Disabilities, is to be found in the NZSM Student Handbook 2006 (available from one of the NZSM offices).*

### **Events**

Regular events are held during trimesters one and two at both the Kelburn and Mt Cook campuses. These events are for the benefit of all students, and include performances, masterclasses, special lectures and workshops given by staff, students and visiting artists.

All students are expected to obtain a copy of the current event brochure (published twice yearly) and keep time free to attend the weekly lunchtime concert on Friday at 1.10pm, along with other events as required.

Event manager Debbie Rawnsley. Phone: (04) 463-6050 Email: [debbie.rawnsley@nzsm.ac.nz](mailto:debbie.rawnsley@nzsm.ac.nz)  
website: <http://www.nzsm.ac.nz/events/>