



U660-206: Legendary Performers

Course Format: Online

Course Author/s: J. Richard Freese, DMA; Michael Leckrone, Director of the Marching Band and Director of Bands at the University of Wisconsin

Course credits: 2 or 3

Pre/Corequisites: None

Course Level: Elementary - Appropriate for advanced high school and first-year or higher college students

Course Description: A survey of pioneer performers who influenced popular musical taste from 1920–1950. Learn about Louis Armstrong, Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, and others.

Required Course Materials

- Leckrone, M. (1991). Popular Music in the United States: 1920-1950 (2nd ed.). Eddie Bowers Publishing Company.

OR

- Learn the Legends: Musical Performers of the Early 20th Century by J. Richard Freese and Jamie Henke, <https://courses.dcs.wisc.edu/wp/musicalperformers/>

Optional/Recommended Course Materials

- Mike Leckrone Video Lectures

Course Learning Objectives

- Compile terms to describe music
- Summarize a musician's history
- Identify a Legendary Performer
- Select key components of Legendary Performer
- Exhibit connections/influences between multigenerational musicians
- Describe how you hear musical examples
- Compare/Contrast performers' history and music
- Examine the impact of musicians
- Evaluate favorite musicians
- Determine the validity of different sources
- Critique a legendary performers impact on music.
- Create an online resource of a musician (appendix) (3 cr)

Course Overview

MODULE/U NIT #	MODULE/UNIT TOPIC	EVALUATED ACTIVITIES
1	Reflecting on Music - Jelly Roll Morton, Scott Joplin, Fats Waller	Discussion, Written Assignment
2	Exploring Music - Bessie Smith, Ethel Waters, Billie Holiday	Written Assignment
3	Comparing Music - Louis Armstrong, Bix Beiderbecke	Written Assignment
		Exam 1
A (3 credits)	Proposal	Expansion Project (Proposal)
4	Describing Music - Al Jolson, Bing Crosby, the Torch Singers	Written Assignment
5	Learn from the Legend - Fred Astaire, Nat Cole, Frank Sinatra	Discussion, Written Assignment
6	Discovering More Legendary Performers - Eddie Cantor, Jimmy Durante, Maurice Chevalier, Art Tatum, Erroll Garner, Eddie Lang, Joe Venuti	Written Assignment
7	Evaluating Music - Judy Garland	Discussion
		Exam 2
8	Connecting Music - Modern Legendary Performers	Discussion, Written Assignment
B (3 credits)	Outline	Expansion Project (Outline, Annotated Bibliography)
C (3 credits)	Rough Draft	Discussion, Expansion Project (Rough Draft)
D (3 credits)	Final Draft	Expansion Project (Final Draft)

Evaluation Methods

Your final grade will be based on your performance on the following:

- 1) Discussion (20 % for 2 credit, 13.4% for 3 credit)
- 2) Written Assignment (50% for 2 credit, 33.5% for 3 credit)
- 3) Exams (30% for 2 credit, 20.1% for 3 credit)
- 4) Expansion Project (33%, 3 credit only)

Discussions

Some units include an online message board discussion through the learning management system. Each discussion will include a prompt, focusing on the student's musical background and reaction to the biographies and/or music of the Legendary Performers. 2 credit students will complete 5 discussions, and 3 credit students will complete 6 discussions.

Written Assignments

Written assignments are composed of essays or short answers. You will be asked to address several prompts related to each module's topic and legendary performer(s). These may require you to answer multiple parts. All students will complete at least 7 written assignments.

Exams

Through multiple choice, connect listening examples and key information to Legendary Performers. All students will complete 2 exams.

Expansion Project

The expansion project is only to be completed by 3 credit students. A research paper or multimedia presentation on a musician of the student's choice, with four components: proposal, outline, rough draft, and final draft.

Exam Method: Online without proctoring

This course requires all students to complete exams online. Students receive two attempts on each exam. If you elect to take a second attempt, the highest score will be recorded.

Grading Scale

The following grading scale is used to evaluate all course requirements and determine your final grade:

A = 93–100	B = 83–87.9	C = 70–77.9	D = 60–69.9
AB = 88–92.9	BC = 78–82.9		F = Below 60

Pass/Fail Option

Students who enroll in an Independent Learning (IL) course under the pass/fail option will receive a final grade of S in place of a final grade equivalent to an A, AB, B, BC, or C and a final grade of U in place of a final grade equivalent to a D or F.