# Instructor Information:

Jacob Collins

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# Teaching Assistant Information:

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# Welcome to UNT!

As members of the UNT community, we have all made a commitment to be part of an institution that respects and values the identities of the students and employees with whom we interact. UNT does not tolerate identity-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. UNT’s full Non-Discrimination Policy can be found in the UNT Policies section of the syllabus.

# Communication Expectations:

Please contact me or a TA via email if you have immediate questions or concerns about the course. A TA may be able to answer your question, but do not be surprised if I respond to you via a forwarded message from them. I check my email several times a day will usually respond within 48 hours. I am less likely to respond quickly after 5:00 pm or on weekends. If you do not receive a response, please send me a follow-up email or let me know before or after class. I may not see your Canvas message, so please use email.

Additionally, I send updates via Canvas Announcements for the general class and directly to you via your UNT email for personal reminders. Please check those.

Please see if the syllabus answers your question before emailing a TA or me.

# Course Description:

This course examines the history of mostly American popular music from 1940s to the early 2000s with assignments and lectures that identify critical moments in popular music history and its effect on society. Course material will explore the expression of ethnic, racial, economic, gender identity through musical performance, the evolution of recording and listening technology, and music industry business practices.

Students are not required to have a background in music to excel in this course; however, participation and a willingness to learn by sharing their experiences with others will benefit all students.

# Learning Objectives:

Students will identify, examine, and describe the role of popular music in the formation of identity. In order to most effectively examine these issues, students will discuss problems and questions; present, interpret and analyze historical documents and contemporary scholarship related to the music being studied in this course; consider the context and credibility of source material; develop and present arguments; and present conclusions, while assessing their implications. (Core LO: Critical Thinking)

Students will evaluate and communicate how popular music has both reflected and shaped American society. To communicate effectively, students will be asked to present a central idea; organize material cohesively; develop content; and apply rules of Standard English in their arguments. (Core LO: Communication)

Students will identify issues of social responsibility by engaging with music from a wide variety of cultural contexts. Students will acknowledge and apply diverse perspectives; acknowledge and apply civic responsibility; and articulate insights about personal attitudes, behaviors, or beliefs as they relate to the history of American popular music. (Core LO: Social Responsibility)

Working in assigned groups, students will participate in class activities and will work together to complete a final creative project. Throughout these activities, students will reflect frequently on how best to contribute to a group; prepare and collaborate with a team; foster a constructive team climate; and respond to feedback constructively. (Core LO: Teamwork)

# Course Materials:

* Access to **Canvas** via the internet to complete quizzes, download readings, worksheets, and view PowerPoint lectures posted on **Canvas** (provided by UNT)
* **iClicker Student Account** (provided by UNT) and either a laptop or smartphone to access the account daily for class activities.

o https://[www.iclicker.com/downloads/](http://www.iclicker.com/downloads/)

* Access to **Microsoft Word** (provided by UNT)
* Access to a music streaming service such as Spotify, Tidal, Apple Music, etc., is recommended but not a requirement.

# Assignments:

1. Course Overview Quiz- 50 points (5% of your final grade)
	1. A short 50-point quiz that covers course information and class expectations from the syllabus. **DUE BEFORE CLASS ON Friday, January 17th**
2. iClicker Reef Polling- 260 points (25% of your final grade)
	1. Each lecture will require you login to iClicker and answer a multiple-choice question. There are 29 opportunities to earn full points. Each day is worth 10 points. DATES VARY.
3. Group Discussions- 80 points (8% of your final grade)
	1. There are 8 group discussion days held once per week. Each day is worth 10 points. DATES VARY.
4. Music & Media Reports- 280 points (40 points per with one dropped) (35% of your final grade)
	1. There are 8 short-answer worksheet assignments. Each is worth 40 points.
	2. These assignments will prepare you for topics that we will cover that week.
	3. **IMPORTANT: ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE BEFORE CLASS.**
	4. Your lowest score will not count toward your final grade.
5. Final Group Project- 330 points total (27% of your final grade)
	1. You will work in your assigned group to create a 1,500-to-2,000-word essay. Your grade is determined by the following:
		1. In-Class Group Workshops, four days, worth 100 points (4% of your final grade)
		2. In-Class Group Presentation, worth 40 points (4% of your final grade)
		3. Group Essay, worth 150 points (15% of your final grade)
		4. Group Assessment Assignment, worth 40 points, in which you comment on the project and your groupmate’s participation (4% of your final grade)
6. Extra Credit Opportunity
	1. Student Perception of Teaching Evaluation (SPOT evaluation)

# Final Grade Percentage Breakdown:

A: 895-1000 points

B: 795-894 points

C: 695-794 points

D: 635-694 points

F: 0-634points

# Course Evaluation:

Student Perception of Teaching (SPOT) is the student evaluation system for UNT which allows students the ability to confidentially provide constructive feedback to their instructor and department to improve the quality of student experiences in the course.

SPOT evaluations are held during the final weeks of class and students who complete this evaluation will have extra credit points added to their final grade.

# Rules of Engagement:

Students are expected to participate in classroom discussions and communicate their ideas with each other. Here are some general guidelines:

* Treat each other with respect.
* Any language that utilizes cruel and derogatory verbiage on the basis of race, color, nationality, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under federal or state law will not be tolerated.
* Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.
* Speak from personal experiences. Use “I” statement to share thoughts, feelings, and opinions. Try to avoid speaking on behalf of groups or other individuals’ experiences.
* Be respectful to individuals who express opinions different from your own. Respond with an open mind and think critically about your response when participating in class.
* Refrain from using humor or sarcasm in emails or homework assignments to avoid misinterpretations.
* Proofread and fact-check your sources.

Please see these Engagement Guidelines (https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) for more information.

# Course Policies

**Attendance:**

* Your attendance and participation will be recorded based on answering the iClicker questions. If you should have technology issues with iClicker during class, please see me or one of the Teaching Assistants immediately on that day to ensure you receive participation credit. Participating in iClicker without being present in the room is an academic integrity violation and will result in receiving no credit for the day and being reported to the academic integrity office.
* Attendance is critical to your success in this course. Therefore, **ten** unexcused absences will result in your final grade being lowered by 10%; **thirteen** unexcused absences will result in an automatic failure for the course.
* If you cannot attend class, for whatever reason, please contact me or one of the Teaching Assistants via email. PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND CLASS IF YOU ARE FEELING SICK. Discretion over whether you will be able to make up (or be excused from) coursework will take place on a case-by-case basis.

# Late Work Policy:

Late work will not be accepted in this class without a reasonable excuse. If you must submit something late, please contact me or the Teaching Assistants as soon as possible. Accepting late work will take place on a case-by-case basis at the instructor’s discretion.

In the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend due dates and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation.

Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324 and obtain a ticket number. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

# Syllabus Change Policy

In the event that changes need to be made to this syllabus, an announcement will be made in Canvas to explain the necessary adjustments.

# Plagiarism:

ALL WRITTEN MATERIALS IN THIS CLASS WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY SCANNED FOR PLAGIARISM VIA TURNITIN.

When writing a research paper, it is important to make it absolutely clear when you are using someone else’s idea(s). Cite your source using proper attribution and citation practices, which we will discuss multiple times in class. Plagiarism occurs when you accidentally or purposefully do any of the following:

* Use someone else’s words either verbatim or nearly verbatim without attribution.
* Use someone else’s evidence, line of thinking, or idea without attribution
* Turn in someone else’s work as your own, including AI assistive writing technology.
* Turn in previously submitted work as new work without instructor approval

If you are unsure if something constitutes plagiarism, please consult me, the Teaching Assistants, and/or the web resources in Canvas.

**AI Policy**

Use of AI writing tools or programs for assignments is not permitted. All submitted work should be your own, in accordance with the University’s Academic Integrity Policy.

**Graded Work Return Policy**

We as a professor/TA team will have your work returned to you approximately two weeks after submission. If another assignment is submitted in that time, it will be returned two weeks after the previous assignment is done.

**Scheduling of Juries (Music Students)**

Students may not schedule juries during class hours

# UNT Policies:

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam [or specify alternative sanction, such as course failure]. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students (Office of Academic Integrity), who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term “cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term “plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

See: [Academic Integrity](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003)

LINK: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>

**STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

See: [Student Code of Conduct](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct)

Link: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>

**ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT**

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at [my.unt.edu](http://my.unt.edu/). All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect.

See: [Eagle Connect](http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/)

LINK:  [eagleconnect.unt.edu/](http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/)

**ODA STATEMENT**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter. You can now request your Letters of Accommodation ONLINE and ODA will mail your Letters of Accommodation to your instructors. You may wish to begin a private discussion with your professors regarding your specific needs in a course. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester. For additional information see the Office of Disability Access.

See: [ODA](https://disability.unt.edu/)

LINK: [disability.unt.edu](http://disability.unt.edu/). (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

**Health and Safety Information**

Students can access information about health and safety at: <https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness>

**Registration Information for Students**

See: [Registration Information](https://registrar.unt.edu/students)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/students>

**Academic Calendar, Fall 2025**

See: [Fall 2025 Registration Information](https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html>

**Final Exam Schedule, Fall 2025**

See above

**Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress**

Undergraduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid.  Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total hours registered.   Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan.  If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

Students holding music scholarships must maintain a minimum 2.5 overall cumulative GPA and 3.0 cumulative GPA in music courses.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended that you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course before doing so.

See: [Financial Aid](http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap)

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

Graduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Music scholarships require a 3.5 cumulative GPA. Students cannot exceed maximum timeframes established based on the published length of the graduate program.  If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended you schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college, an advisor in UNT-International or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course.

See: [Financial Aid](http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap)

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

**RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS**

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university’s policy in accordance with those mandates.

See: [FERPA](http://ferpa.unt.edu/)

Link: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

**COUNSELING AND TESTING**

UNT’s Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor for students in need. Please visit the Center’s website for further information:

See: [Counseling and Testing](http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)

Link: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>.

For more information on mental health resources, please visit:

See:  [Mental Health Resources](https://disparities.unt.edu/mental-health-resources)

Link: <https://disparities.unt.edu/mental-health-resources>

**ADD/DROP POLICY**

Please be reminded that dropping classes or failing to complete and pass registered hours may make you ineligible for financial aid. In addition, if you drop below half-time enrollment you may be required to begin paying back your student loans. See Academic Calendar (listed above) for additional add/drop Information.

Drop Information: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html>

**STUDENT RESOURCES**

The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to:

See: [Student Resources](https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources)

Link: <https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>

**CARE TEAM**

The Care Team is a collaborative interdisciplinary committee of university officials that meets regularly to provide a response to student, staff, and faculty whose behavior could be harmful to themselves or others.

See: [Care Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team)

Link: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>

**Course Schedule (Subject to Change)**

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| --- |
| **American Popular Music Prior to 1950** |
| **Date** | **Topic** | **Reading(s)- DATE READ BY** | **Assignment(s)- DATE DUE** |
| 8/18, M | Class Introduction:Why Study Popular Music? |  |  |
| 8/20, W | Foundations I: Blues, Country, and Pop |  |  |
| 8/22, F | Foundations II: New Technologies,Crooners, and R&B |  | **Syllabus Quiz** |
| **The 1950s** |
| 8/25, M | Early Rock ‘n’ Roll |  | **Music & Media Report 1** |
| 8/27, W | Elvis Presley |  |  |
| 8/29, F  | Doo Wop, Girl Groups, and EarlySoul |  |  |
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| 9/1, M |  NO CLASS – MLK JR. DAY |  |

 |  NO CLASS – LABOR DAY |  |

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| 9/3, W | Payola, the Twist, Surf Music |  |  |
| 9/5, F | Group Discussion |  “Miss Rhythm’ Speaks Out”, “Langston Hughes Responds” |  Group Discussion 1 |
| **The 1960s** |
| 9/8, M | Motown, Stax, and Atlantic |  |  |
| 9/10, W | The Beatles & theBritish Invasion |  |  **Music & Media Report 2** |
| 9/12, F | Discussion: Beatlemania and Moral Panic | 1. “Beatlemania Frightens Child Expert”
2. “Excerpt of Communism,

Hypnotism, and the Beatles” | Group Discussion 2 |
| 9/15, M | Garage Rock andBlues Revival |  |  |
| 9/17, W | Urban Folk, Soul, and Folk Rock |  |  |
| 9/19, F | Discussion: Music and Protest | 1.“Music in the Civil Rights Movement” 2.“How Music and Chants Bring ProtestorsTogether” | Group Discussion 3 |
| 9/22, M | Psychedelic Rock and Music Festivals in the 1960s |  | **Music & Media Report 3** |
| 9/24, W | Early Funk, Late-60s Soul, and Black Pride |  |  |
| 9/26, F | Discussion: The Live Concert Experience |  “Live Music Matters” | Group Discussion 4 |
| **The 1970s** |
| 9/29, M | Hard Rock and HeavyMetal |  |  |
| 10/1, W | Glam Rock andShock Rock |  |  |
| 10/3, F | Discussion: Misogyny and Rock Culture | “Cock Rock: Men Always Seem to End Up on Top” | Group Discussion 5 |
| 10/6, M | Singer-Songwriter |  | **Music & Media Report 4** |
| 10/8, W | Disco |  |  |
| 10/10, F | In-Class Workday:Brainstorming Topics |  | Final Project Part I |
| 10/13, M | American Punk &New Wave |  | **Music & Media Report 5** |
| 10/15, W | British Punk andPost-Punk |  |  |
| 10/17, F | In-Class Workday:Dividing the Work and Finding Sources |  | Final Project Part II |
| **The 1980s** |
| 10/20, M | MTV, pt. 1 |  | **Music & Media Report 6** |
| 10/22, W | MTV, pt. 2 |  |  |
| 10/24, F | Discussion: Can you Separate the Art from the Artist? | 1. “How the Myth of the Artistic Genius Excuses the Abuse of Women”
2. “How Do We Reckon with

Great Music by Terrible People” | Group Discussion 6 |
| 10/27, M | ‘80s Metal |  | **Music & Media Report 7** |
| 10/29, W | Hip Hop |  |  |
| 10/31, F | Discussion: Music and Censorship | “Is *As Nasty as They Wanna Be*Obscene” | Group Discussion 7 |
| **The 1990s** |
| 11/3, M | Grunge and Alternative Rock |  |  |
| 11/5, W | Boy Bands and Teen Pop |  | **Music & Media Report 8** |
| 11/7, F | Jazz/Hip-Hop Fusion |  |  |
|  11/10, M | Country in the Mainstream |  |  |
| 11/12, W |  Punk Goes Pop |  |  |
| 11/14, F | Discussion: Supporting Artists in the Age of Streaming | “Musicians Say Streaming Doesn’t Pay. Can the Industry Change?” | Group Discussion 8 |
| 11/17, M | Electronic Dance Music |  |  |
| 11/19, W |  |  | Final Project Part III |
| 11/21, F |  |  | Final Project Part IV |
| 11/24- 11/30 NO CLASS THANKSGIVING BREAK |
| 12/1, M | Final ProjectPresentations I |  |  |
| 12/3, W | Final ProjectPresentations II |  |  |
| 12/5, F NO CLASS - READING DAY |
| 12/10, W | Final ProjectPresentations III | **NOTE: CLASS MEETS AT****8AM** |  |

# FINAL PROJECT GROUP ESSAY AND GROUP ASSESSMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH CANVAS BY TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9TH AT 11:59PM