	Point Loma Nazarene University Music Department
	Introduction to Music MUH1000-4
	2 Units
Spring 2026	

Meeting days: M W	**Instructor title and name:** Professor Andrew Ginzel
Meeting times: 11:00 – 11:55	**Phone:** (858) 758-0848
Meeting location: CM115 - Cooper Music Center	**Email:** aginzel@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: W May 6 @ 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	**Office location and hours:** Please contact me for appointments
Additional info: The class meets in the band room in Cooper Music Center	**Additional info:** The best way to reach me is email; I usually respond to email within 24 hours

PLNU Mission

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Foundational Explorations Mission

PLNU provides a foundational course of study in the liberal arts informed by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In keeping with the Wesleyan tradition, the curriculum equips students with a broad range of knowledge and skills within and across disciplines to enrich major study, lifelong learning, and vocational service as Christ-like participants in the world's diverse societies and culture.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This introductory course presents a general survey of music history, genres, styles and media. The course focuses on analytical listening and developing aesthetic awareness. It includes an introduction to library research tools in music, and examination of the interrelationship of music studies and general education, and the integration of faith and learning with the study of music.

This course is a survey of American popular music from the nineteenth century to the present day. Beginning with studies of Minstrel Shows and Tin Pan Alley, the course traces many major developments in American popular music, such as rock and roll, country music, soul, funk, disco, punk rock, and hip-hop. All course materials will be accessed electronically.

> **Please note that some of the material in this course contains explicit content that may be offensive. These works are presented as explorations of artistic practices and are not intended to offend and/or shock.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

• Identify musical works and specific musical features of American Popular Music

• Situate popular music into a broader context of the history of the United States of America

• Assess the relationship between popular music and culture

• Examine how social and cultural events influence and may be influenced by popular music

FOUNDATIONAL EXPLORATIONS LEARNING OUTCOMES

• Students will be able to evaluate and articulate personal experiences through attending live concerts.

• Students will be able to recognize and describe basic musical elements (such as form, harmony, melody, rhythm and form) and terminology

• Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the role of music in a historical/cultural contexts.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

- All course materials will be accessed electronically though Canvas.

COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 2 unit class. Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirement can be provided upon request.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Grades will be based on the following:

A	B	C	D	F
A 93-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F Less than 59
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

Quizzes: (13 @ 20 pts.) (Syllabus Quiz @ 5 points): 265 points.
   Throughout the session, students must complete 13 timed quizzes. The quizzes will contain multiple-choice, matching, true-false, and listening identification questions based on the week's lecture materials, reading, and music. This will include an additional five-point syllabus quiz. Quizzes will be completed on Canvas. Any technological issues with the quizzes must be resolved promptly, as they will not excuse late or missed quizzes. Quizzes will be available from Sunday of the assigned week and are due by midnight on the Sunday following the corresponding lessons.

Responses: (27 @ 5 pts.): 135 points

Each student is expected to be familiar with each week's assigned listenings, readings, and viewings before class to contribute meaningfully to discussions. Toward the end of each class session, students will be asked to respond to a survey asking for a key takeaway from the class material that impacted their understanding of the weekly topic.

Written Assignments: (6 @ 25 pts.) 150 points

Throughout the semester, students will be required to write six essays in response to a given prompt related to the course material. These essays should thoroughly discuss the main issues of the topic and offer a strong interpretation based on compelling evidence. Each essay must be at least 250 words long, well-written, with accurate spelling, grammar, and a logical flow of ideas.

*It is recommended that you type up your response using a word processing program and save a copy for yourself. This will prevent any work from being lost in case of an internet connection failure

Midterm Exam: 100 points

The Midterm Exam will cover material from **Chapters 1-19.** The exam will have a 2-hour time limit and will include multiple-choice, matching, true-false, and listening identification questions based on lecture materials, readings, and music covered in the course.

Final Exam: 150 points

The Final Exam will cover the material in **Chapters 21-43**. The exam will have a 2-hour time limit and will include multiple-choice, matching, true-false, and listening identification questions based on lecture materials, readings, and music covered in the course.

Current Event Conundrum: 50 points

In this project, students will work in groups to research and present on a significant current music related event. Each group will select a relevant topic, analyze its background, causes, and impact, and conduct research using credible sources. Presentations will take the form of a 5-10 minute multimedia slideshow presentation, followed by at least one discussion question to encourage class participation. In addition to the presentation, each student must submit a completed group report outlining individual contributions, meeting times, and how responsibilities were divided and managed. A blank report template and sample report will be provided. Presentations will be scheduled throughout the term.

Literary Source Discussions: 50 points

Students will work in groups to research and present on an assigned Literary Source Reading posted on Canvas. Each group read the primary source and analyze its background, meaning, significance, and impact. Presentations will take the form of a 5-10 minute multimedia slideshow presentation, followed by at least one discussion question to encourage class participation. In addition to the presentation, each student must submit a completed group report outlining individual contributions, meeting times, and how responsibilities were divided and managed. A blank report template and sample report will be provided. Presentations will be scheduled throughout the term.

Concert Reports: (2 @ 50 points) 100 points

Students will attend a live concert at a San Diego venue, whether it's a large arena show or a small DIY indie performance, and write a report that describes the concert experience. The reports should include a short bio of the performing band or artist, including their genre and background and should be 300 words each. Students will describe the instrumentation of the performers, performance style, audience interaction, and your overall thoughts of the show. It is highly recommended to attend concerts with your classmates. The report may be turned in at anytime during the semester but will be due Dec. 11th.

*Consistent with University policy, I retain the right to adjust course design, including assignments, assessments and deadlines. Major departures from the syllabus shall be made only for compelling reasons. Any major changes to the course syllabus will be announced in class, communicated to all students electronically, and incorporated into an updated and posted version of the syllabus.

INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due— including assignments posted in Canvas. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

Late assignments completed after the due date will be penalized ten points per day. Assignments will close a week after the due date at which point no credit will be awarded.

*Please note: all due dates/times are PST (Pacific Standard Time)

STATEMENT OF INCLUSION
It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that the students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength, and benefit. I intend to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender identity, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, nationality, religion, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated.

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

*Please note: Some of the course material may be sensitive, so it is crucial to create an atmosphere of trust and safety in the learning environment. I will strive to foster an environment where every class member can hear and respect each other. Respect for all expressed worldviews is expected. Since some course material may evoke strong emotions, please respect others' emotions and be mindful of your own. Please let me know if anything said or done in class by either myself or other students is troubling, causes discomfort, or offends you. Although our intention may not be to cause discomfort or offense, it's important to acknowledge the impact of what happens throughout the course and address it accordingly.

STATE AUTHORIZATION

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on State Authorization to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See Academic Policies for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU RECORDING NOTIFICATION

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities. Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will issue an academic accommodation plan ("AP") to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not wish to utilize some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC.

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is aabsent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation.

SPIRITUAL CARE

Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith.

 If students have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact the [Office of Spiritual Development.](#)

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND DISCRIMINATION

In support of a safe learning environment, if you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the Title IX Office at pointloma.edu/Title-IX. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office. If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors at pointloma.edu/title-ix.

AI STATEMENT
You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro 1.5, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc) to generate ideas, but you are not allowed to use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any work submitted to be graded for this course. If you have any doubts about using AI, please gain permission from the instructor.