

# SYLLABUS: Jazz to Rock

MUSL 1327 - University of Texas at El Paso  
Fall 2020

**Instructor: Dr. Lindsey Macchiarella:** [lmacchiarella@utep.edu](mailto:lmacchiarella@utep.edu)

Contacting your instructor: Plan on contacting me entirely via email. Before doing so, 1) check the syllabus and course calendar, 2) consider the “in the event of computer problems” notice (below) and 3) bear in mind that it will usually be 2 hours, but could take up to 10 hours for me to respond to your email. If you ask me a question about an assignment shortly before its due, I probably will not be able to answer it in time to help you.

## Course Objectives:

1. To learn how to listen deeply, describe, and discuss all styles of popular music.
2. To discover some of the infinite variety of styles and genres in popular music.
3. To discern some of the ways in which music and culture are intimately connected.
4. To develop writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills.

## Some Important Course Policies in a Nutshell:

(Explained in greater detail throughout the syllabus)

- Late work is not accepted (except for Projects, up to a point)
- Due dates are on the Course Calendar
- Check your email daily
- Computer and constant internet are required
- This class takes 3-5 hours per week
- Don't plagiarize
- Contact the Help Desk if you have problems with BlackBoard: 915-747-4357, [helpdesk@utep.edu](mailto:helpdesk@utep.edu)

## Required Texts:

NONE! 😊

## Concerning Communication

You are expected to check your UTEP email at least once a day. Since this class takes place entirely online, it is vital that you read all course-related emails carefully. Most course-related emails are archived under the “announcements” tab on Blackboard. Please check the announcements, syllabus, and course calendar before contacting your instructor with questions!

## A Word on Computer Literacy

This course takes place entirely online. This means that in order to take this course, you must have:

- Constant access to a working computer throughout the semester.
- Your computer must have internet access and Microsoft Word.

You must be capable of accomplishing the following tasks on a computer:

- Accessing the course website.
- Accessing the library website and databases.
- Creating a word document.
- Uploading a document to a blackboard.

If you are unable to complete any of these tasks, contact the technology center in the library for assistance during the first week of classes. [www.helpdesk.utep.edu](http://www.helpdesk.utep.edu)

Save your work!:

- Do not upload the only copy of your assignment to blackboard. You are responsible for saving a copy of every assignment you write to your computer.

File Types:

- Acceptable:
  - .doc
  - .docx
  - .pdf
  - .jpeg
  - .png
- Not Acceptable:
  - .pages
    - (It is particularly common for people to try to submit this one! Mac users: I cannot read these files)
  - .heic
  - .plist

### In the Event of Computer Problems . . .

Technology problems are not a valid excuse for late assignments. Do not leave work until the last minute. You must allow yourself time (at least 2 hours) to adjust for emergencies - e.g. internet goes down, computer breaks, etc.

You should usually contact the Blackboard technical support for technical issues. Assess the situation and decide whether your issue is one for the instructor, or for the UTEP help desk. [Helpdesk.utep.edu](http://Helpdesk.utep.edu)

## Adds, Drops, and Withdrawals

- Late Additions to the Class: Because this class is so large, I cannot make exceptions to accept late work from students (see section regarding deadlines). This includes situations in which a student adds the class after it has begun.
- Drops and Withdrawals: Check with the registrar to find out when last day to drop this class is without receiving an “F” or “W” on your transcript. I will not sign paperwork

allowing students to drop the class without receiving an F after the deadline. I consider such practices unfair to other students unless the student has a very extreme and sudden emergency with considerable documentation, or a situation the instructor was notified about in the first few weeks of class.

## Class Requirements

Workload will vary, but you should plan on spending roughly 3-5 hours per week on assignments. **If you do not have 3-5 hours per week to dedicate to this class, you should not be in it.**

\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\* Be sure to refer to the extremely helpful course calendar of due dates I've made for you! It is available in the course library on blackboard.

## Videos, Podcasts, and Readings:

- Ad Notice: Some of the videos I made for this course have YouTube ads due to copyright circumstances beyond my control. Be assured that they are someone else's ads and I am not profiting from them in any way.
- Quizzes will usually consist of 5 questions on a course video. These are timed and students receive two attempts. Definitely see the "How to Take the Quizzes and Tests" document under "course information" on BlackBoard.

## Discussion Boards:

- These assignments consist of two parts.
  1. Write an essay on the given prompt. See full descriptions for these prompts on the course site.
  2. Read other students' essays and respond to at least two other students' posts. Suggestions for response topics are included on each prompt.
- Discussion board posts are graded for writing, content, correct use of academic sources and correct citation. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the "Academic Honesty" portion of this syllabus.
- Writing is not taught in this course, but your work will be graded with technical writing in mind. College-level writing is expected in this course. If you struggle with writing, contact the UTEP Writing Center for help: [www.uwc.utep.edu](http://www.uwc.utep.edu)

## Tests:

- There will be timed listening tests covering audio examples from bands and artists. Each test covers both "familiar listening," which tests on factual material from the course, and "unfamiliar listening," which tests aural identification.

## Projects:

- These are longer essays and discussions that require considerable creative investment and musical judgement.

- The first project is an album review, the second requires you to compose a short piece of music using accessible software. Yes, people who are not trained musicians can and do complete Project 2!

## Your Grade

Quizzes and Assignments: 50%  
 Listening Tests: 10%  
 Discussion Boards: 20%  
 Projects: 20%

100-90% = A  
 80-89% = B  
 70-79% = C

60-69% = D  
 Below 60% = F

**Knowing Your Grade:** I find the blackboard grading program overly complex and inconsistent, so I will not calculate grades on that website. You will see grades for individual assignments under the “my grades,” but your current and final grade are calculated on my computer, not on blackboard. You will receive regular, automatically generated grade updates to your UTEP email.

## Regarding Deadlines

In this course, you are expected to develop professional skills, including, but not limited to: coping with conflicts between your personal, work, and school life, planning your week’s schedule in advance, practicing clear email communication, and submitting work on time. Familiarize yourself with due dates for major projects and quizzes at the beginning of the semester. Let the instructor know in the first week of the semester if you foresee any legitimate conflicts with these dates. Unless you have a legitimate emergency and inform your instructor either immediately before, or after an assignment is due, all deadlines are final.

### The One Exception:

Since this is a lower level course and Projects are worth a considerable portion of your grade, they are the only assignment that can be submitted late.

- Late projects will not be graded unless the student emails the instructor, stating the project has been submitted late.
- A late penalty will be applied, depending on how late the Project is.
- Projects will not be accepted more than 5 days late.

## Academic Honor Policy

Plagiarism is not tolerated in the course. Suspected cases of plagiarism will be immediately turned over to the Student Conduct Office for evaluation and possible disciplinary action. Refer to the Student Conduct Guide for further information

<http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/>

**To Summarize:**

- I'm serious. I submit people from this class to the Student Conduct Office almost every semester. I have never submitted work to this office without hard evidence of misconduct according to the rules outlined below.
- All information not completely original to your own experience must be cited correctly.
- Don't copy other people's work.
- You cannot invent historical facts.
- **You must put information you've researched into your own words. It cannot be exactly copied from your sources.**
- It is also plagiarism if you copy something someone else has written and change a few words, and/or skip over sentences in the original.
- All work for this course must be original to this course. You cannot turn in assignments you've written for another class.
- Collaboration with other students or tutors on written assignments is prohibited unless the instructor or assignment instructions state otherwise.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act**

Any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities will be made. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Center for Accommodations and Support services Office. Cass can be reached in the following ways: <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/> 915-747-5148, or via email, [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu).