

Hello everyone!

I'm Mike Napolitano, your instructor for Pop Music in America this Summer. I wanted to take some time to welcome you to the class and give you some guidance about course expectations. In this course, we hope to delve into not just the history of popular music in America but also have some great conversations about its impact on some relevant cultural movements in our society.

As for how we are meeting - this course is set up for asynchronous instruction. Meaning, I will make lessons and resources available for you to review at your own pace, but you must still organize your time in a fashion that helps you meet the assignment deadlines. Over the next couple of days, more lecture materials and resources will be loaded up into the course site. Our content is broken down into weekly lessons that will house all of our lesson materials and additional resources to support your assignments.

We are going to review more than 100 years of music over the course of eight weeks. So, please stay engaged and attentive - the tapestry of American musical history flows in a threaded sequence of sound and messaging. If you miss one part of the story, the rest becomes less clear.

In the meantime, between now and the start of the semester, I encourage you all to look at the syllabus. Once the course begins, we will move right into the sounds of America around the Civil War and start to set the table for some of the music that we hear today!

I look forward to hearing from all of you, and please reach out with any questions!