



IDH3034: Soundtrack of Our Lives; Section RVM



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Office Hours: Thursdays from 10:30-11:30 AM or By Appointment

Turn Around: Within 24 hours

Course Time Zone | Eastern Time (ET). Course due dates are according to this time zone.

General Information

Course Description and Purpose

This course explores the topic of music across multiple disciplines such as anthropology, sociology, psychology, education, history, business, law, politics, medicine, and technology. What is it that makes humans perceive sound waves as music? How do individuals and societies identify with different types of music? What have been the impacts of music on political and religious movements throughout history? What are the effects of music on those suffering from illness? Can computers learn to compose melodies that please the human ear? Students will determine the answers to these questions and more through a guided analysis of academic research. Additional audio and video resources will also be used in the course.

Course Objectives

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze the physical properties of musical sound.
2. Investigate the theories of music's origins and its evolution over time.
3. Examine the emotional and physical responses that humans have to music.

4. Compare how different musical preferences impact personal and social identities.
5. Identify the impact of music on law and politics.
6. Discuss the ways human learning is affected by music.
7. Investigate the business and economics of music.
8. Assess the potential future of music as it relates to emerging technology.
9. Evaluate the interrelatedness of local, international, and intercultural trends in music that compose the global soundtrack.

Global Learning Foundations

This course fulfills FIU's [Global Learning requirement](https://goglobal.fiu.edu/courses/graduation-requirement/). Students who take this course will be able to achieve the following Global Learning goals:

- **Global Awareness** : Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the inter-relatedness of local, global, international, and intercultural issues, trends, and systems.
- **Global Perspective** : Students will be able to develop a multi-perspective analysis of local, global, international, and intercultural problems.
- **Global Engagement** : Students will be able to demonstrate a willingness to engage in local, global, international, and intercultural problem solving.

Important Information

Policies

Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

- [Policies](#)
- [Netiquette](https://online.fiu.edu/html/canvas/policies/)
- [Technical Requirements and Skills](#)
- [Accessibility and Accommodation](#)
- [Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#)
- [Academic Misconduct Statement](#)
- [Copyright Statement](#)
- [Inclusivity Statement](#)

Course Prerequisites

Admission to the Honors College. Review the [Course Catalog](http://onlineapps.fiu.edu/coursecatalog/) webpage for prerequisites information.

Proctored Exam Policy

This course requires a final proctored exam with Honorlock.

[Honorlock](https://honorlock.com/students/) is a virtual proctoring center recommended by FIU that allows students to take exams from any comfortable and private location. Students do not need a password or an appointment since the feature is already built-in inside the Canvas course.

The Honorlock fee is \$4.45 and must be paid by the student at the time they take the exam.

Students are responsible for complying with the Honorlock requirements, including but not limited to a functioning web cam since the exam needs to be recorded.

Honorlock publishes a [Student Privacy Statement](https://honorlock.com/student-privacy-statement/) that explains how the technology works and what it is capable and not capable of doing. While online proctoring may be new to most and uncomfortable to some, it is a viable solution that supports the continuity of our academic enterprise and preserves academic integrity.

Assessments are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you encounter any technical difficulties, please contact the [FIU Canvas Help Team](https://canvas.fiu.edu/support/). Please ensure you contact support immediately upon the issue occurring.

Additional guides and resources are also available for students at [FIU's Canvas Help page - Honorlock \(Students\)](https://fiuhelp.force.com/canvas/s/article/Honorlock-students).

Textbook and Course Materials

In lieu of a formal textbook, this course utilizes a variety of no-cost resources such as academic journals, news articles, book excerpts, podcasts, and videos.

This course will also use Yellowdig for group discussions (more details on this tool are listed in the assignment area of the syllabus). **Student cost for Yellowdig is \$9.95** for the term per course. However, the cost of Yellowdig is included in the [Panther Book Pack](https://shop.fiu.edu/bookpack-2/).

Expectations of this Course

This is an online course, which means most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same as a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- **review the getting started page** located in the course modules;
- **introduce yourself to the class** during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion;
- **take the practice quiz** to ensure that your computer is compatible with the learning management system, Canvas;
- **interact** online with instructor and peers;
- **review** and follow the course calendar and weekly outlines;
- **log in** to the course **4 times** per week;
- **respond** to discussions by the due date specified. **No late work will be accepted;**
- **respond to emails** within **2 days**;
- **submit** assignments by the corresponding deadline.

The instructor will:

- log in to the course **4 times** per week;
- respond to **emails** within **24 hours**;

- grade assignments within **7 days** of the assignment deadline.

Assignments from the text and other resources are listed for each class session. Students are expected to pace their learning according to the posted course assignments.

It is expected that interactive learning and teaching will enrich the learning experience of all students, and that each student will work in partnership with the professor to create a positive learning experience for all. Student engagement is a necessary condition for an effective learning experience and includes contributions to debate and discussion (if any), positive interactive learning with others, and an enthusiastic attitude towards inquiry. Everyone is expected to be a positive contributor to the class learning community, and students are expected to share the responsibility of teaching each other.

Religious Observances

Every effort will be made, where feasible and practical, to accommodate students whose religious practices coincide with class requirements or scheduling. Please make sure to notify your instructor at the beginning of the semester of which dates you will be absent or any anticipated problems with completing course work.

Physical, Mental and Sensory Challenges

The Disability Resource Center collaborates with students, faculty, staff, and community members to create diverse learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive and sustainable. The DRC provides FIU students with disabilities the necessary support to successfully complete their education and participate in activities available to all students. If you have a diagnosed disability and plan to utilize academic accommodations, please contact the DRC at 305-348-3532 (MMC) or at 305-919-5345 (BBC) to schedule an appointment. You can also visit them in person in GC 190 at MMC or in WUC 131 at BBC campus.

Honors College Policies and Requirements

Academic Misconduct Procedures and Policies

In The Honors College, the term “honor” refers both to academic accomplishment and character. Students in Honors should therefore adhere to and be held to the highest standards of personal academic accountability. Academic dishonesty in any form, including plagiarism, is antithetical to the very definition of being an Honors student at FIU. Consequently, an Honors College student found responsible for academic misconduct will be dismissed from the College.

An Honors faculty member may bring charges of academic misconduct against an Honors student if the faculty member suspects plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct. The faculty member will decide whether to pursue informal resolution, file formal resolution charges, or take no further action, and will follow the procedures outlined in the Academic Misconduct Procedures available at <https://studentaffairs.fiu.edu/get-support/student-conduct-and-academic-integrity/academic-integrity/index.php> [↗] (<https://studentaffairs.fiu.edu/get-support/student-conduct-and-academic-integrity/academic-integrity/index.php>). Please refer to the following documents for additional information:

FIU Student Handbook: <https://studentaffairs.fiu.edu/about/student-handbook/index.php> [↗]
(<https://studentaffairs.fiu.edu/about/student-handbook/index.php>)

Student Portfolios

The Honors College will be using a portfolio method to assess students' learning outcomes. The portfolio allows for maximum flexibility in gauging student learning. Students decide (with instructor consultation) what "artifacts" or assignments to include for consideration in their portfolios to demonstrate successful achievement of each of five key student learning outcomes over the 4-year Honors experience. Portfolios provide a rich context for students to show what they have learned and to explain their learning process. Because the Honors curriculum is meant to be thought-provoking and reflective, student self-assessment through portfolios will facilitate learning and provide in-depth assessment. Each Honors College course includes at least one assignment that could potentially fit portfolio requirements. <http://honors.fiu.edu/current-students/portfolio/> [↗] (<http://honors.fiu.edu/current-students/portfolio/>)

Honors Engagement

Requirements Honors College students are required to accumulate at least 20 engagement points each academic year (Fall and Spring) by attending Honors College activities. Students attending only one semester (Fall or Spring) are required to accumulate 10 engagement points. Each activity has a point value. Students may select which events and activities they want to attend. The new system is designed to be more flexible for students, offering events at various days and times (including some weekend events) and allowing for a variety of ways to meet the requirements. Please plan accordingly. <http://honors.fiu.edu/current-students/citizenship/> [↗] (<http://honors.fiu.edu/current-%20students/citizenship/>)

Community Service

Honors College students must also complete 20 volunteer service hours. These hours DO NOT count toward the 20 engagement points discussed above. <http://honors.fiu.edu/current-students/community-service/> [↗] (<http://honors.fiu.edu/current-students/community-service/>)

Honors Education in the Arts (HEARTS)

The HEARTS program is designed to give Honors College students opportunities to "explore and appreciate different artistic and cultural traditions and modes of artistic expression. HEARTS will also serve as a clearinghouse (and curatorial framework) for our students to experience the arts on campus and in the community by providing them with information about cultural activities and access to performances with free or discounted tickets. <http://honors.fiu.edu/current-students/hearts/> [↗] (<http://honors.fiu.edu/current-students/hearts/>)

Course Detail

Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place via the Canvas Inbox. Check out the [Canvas Conversations Tutorial](https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Video-Guide/Conversations-Overview-All-Users/ta-p/383696#U383696) (<https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Video-Guide/Conversations-Overview-All-Users/ta-p/383696#U383696>) or [Canvas Guide](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10574-4212710325) (<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10574-4212710325>) to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Announcements, Discussions, and the Inbox. I will respond to all correspondences within **24 hours**.

Zoom Video Conference

Zoom is a video conference tool that you can use to interact with your professor and fellow students by sharing screens, chatting, broadcasting live video/audio, and taking part in other interactive online activities. We will be utilizing this tool to conduct virtual office hours.

Zoom meetings can be accessed via the Zoom link in the course navigation menu. Once you click on the Zoom link, it will route you to join the meeting for the respective class session. You will also be able to view upcoming meetings, previous meetings that you have already joined, and meeting recordings. Before joining an actual class session:

- Reference the [Zoom Student Tutorials](https://fiuhelp.force.com/canvas/s/article/Zoom-students) to learn about the tool, how to access your meeting room, and share your screen.
- Access the [Zoom Test Meeting Room](https://zoom.us/test) to test out the software before joining an actual session.

If you encounter any technical difficulties, please contact the [FIU Canvas Help Team](https://canvas.fiu.edu/support/). Please ensure you contact support immediately upon the issue occurring.

Discussion Forums

This course will use Yellowdig, a discussion platform that leverages social media-inspired design with a behavior incentivized points system to support active, student-driven communities where students converse freely, share knowledge, and become intrinsically motivated to learn from one another. There is not a minimum number of posts or comments that you must contribute. Instead, you will accumulate points based on the number of posts you begin as well as the comments you contribute to your peers' posts.

Keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post. When criticizing or agreeing with another student's position on a given topic, please make sure to include supporting facts and specific examples to strengthen your arguments. Contribute links to articles, news stories, other media, and memes/gifs whenever possible.

Additional information and resources can be found on [FIU's Canvas Help Page - Yellowdig \(Students\)](https://fiuhelp.force.com/canvas/s/article/Yellowdig-Students).

Quizzes

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the [Practice Quiz](#) from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet.

There are 8 quizzes throughout the semester, 1 for each module. Quizzes will be graded immediately with student submission and answers hidden until after the due date.

For more information, please review the [important information about quizzes](#) page.

Final Exam

The final exam will be cumulative and taken online with Honorlock.

The Honorlock fee is \$4.45 and must be paid by the student at the time they take the exam.

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Assignments

There are 8 assignments throughout the semester, 1 for each module. Assignments will be graded within 7 days of the due date. Specific details, including expectations and criteria for evaluation, are available in the description of each assignment in Canvas.

For more information, please review the [important information about the assignments](#) page.

Private Reflection Journals

You will submit 2 reflection journals with your private thoughts, questions, and concerns about the course, topics, text, videos, and resources. These journals will be graded on completion, not on content.

Group Project

You will work in groups of 3 to 4 students on a final project that will be due at the end of the semester. The final project will be a 8 to 12 minute video about a topic from at least one module of this course and how it applies to a modern problem in which music can somehow be used as part of the solution. Example problems include but are not limited to: education policy, immigration, election reform, inequality, medical treatment, etc.

You may present a solution from either side of the argument as long as it is supported by factual information. The video should include a solution or steps toward a big change to that particular issue. Regardless of the issue being addressed, music should be the driving force behind your suggested solution.

Your group will submit 2 deliverables toward the final development of the video: 1) Project Topic & Reference List and 2) Video Outline or Storyboard.

The final component of the group project will be an evaluation of your participation in the development and creation of the video by your teammates. This score is worth 10% of your final grade in the course. Therefore, if your group

does not feel you contributed fairly to the project, you will lose an entire letter grade in the whole course.

Specific details about the final project, including expectations and criteria for evaluation, are available in the description of each assignment in Canvas.

Grading

Course Grades Distribution Table

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available	Weight
Private Reflection Journals	2	50	50	5%
Yellowdig Discussions	1	200	200	20%
Assignments	8	25	200	20%
Quizzes	8	15	120	12%
Cumulative Final Exam with Honorlock	1	80	80	8%
Project Deliverables	2	25	50	5%
Peer Evaluation on Group Project	1	100	100	10%
Group Project	1	200	200	20%
Total	24	Varies	1000	100%

Letter Grade Distribution Table

Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%
A	95 or above	B	83 - 86	C	70 - 76
A-	90 - 94	B-	80 - 82	D	60 - 69
B+	87 - 89	C+	77 - 79	F	59 or less

Course Calendar

Access your [Course Calendar \(.docx\)](#) ↓ (https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/117296/files/16425575/download?verifier=FTz2ON2qOAzZaRBgw7PgsyKzAtVjIUrcanxU6QY&download_frd=1) for course topics and assignments.

Disclaimer: The syllabus is a statement of intent and serves as an implicit agreement between the instructor and the student. Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. Please remember to check your email and the course site often.