MUET 3020 HONORS SECTION

Section 002 of MUET 3020 "Popular Music in American Culture" has been designated an Honors course for which specific objectives (see below) have been adopted. Students enrolled in the Honors section of MUET 3020 should expect to be assigned work that is—in breath, depth, and effort required—far beyond work that is assigned in the non-Honors sections.

In addition to meeting all regular course requirements (see document below), students enrolled in the Honors section will also be required to do the following:

- participate in a panel discussion (pro and con to be assigned by the instructor) discussing Greg Lukianoff's *Freedom from Speech*, and
- prepare a 15-20 page double-spaced (12-point type with 1-inch margins) scholarly opinion that addresses both the merits and the dangers of "political correctness" at a particular moment in American history and which, at the same time, makes use of the historical record contained in music, dance, theater, and/or art to both frame and support the argument.

Honors Course Guidelines

- Honors courses emphasize development of analytical and evaluative skills through readings from primary sources, journal articles, and other supplementary materials.
- Honors courses encourage students to engage in high-level thinking and learning through activities such as intensive discussion; writing in small, collaborative learning settings; and intensive research papers and projects.
- Honors courses promote independent thinking by making students accountable for important aspects of their learning.
- Honors courses place material in a conceptual context that illustrates its importance and relationship to other knowledge.
- Honors courses provide enhanced opportunities for students to develop research skills and produce independent, original research or creative products as part of the course requirements.
- Honors courses include innovative approaches to course content and teaching so that honors courses can serve as campus-wide prototypes.
PART ONE: APOLOGIA*

*a.k.a. the "Trigger Warning" = the new politically correct term for the announcement that is to precede any statement the professor might make that could possibly offend a student who is enrolled at an institution of higher learning.

MUET 3020 is a university Capstone class.

MUET 3020 is NOT a music class per se, but a class—using music as its soapbox—in which issues of cultural diversity are addressed (a task which I take very seriously).

MUET 3020 is NOT about memorizing music facts you could look up on Wikipedia; rather, this class is about "challenging assumptions" and "learning how to think for oneself."

Your particular beliefs, prejudices, and language patterns do not reside in a protected class that will not be challenged.

The only barrier to truth is the assumption that you already have it.

Within this context, MUET 3020 will be an examination of distinct styles of popular music and prejudices found in our society between the years 1827 and 2015. We will address these issues via five content units:

- American History: Music from 1492-1783 (no lectures or videos on this unit; exam only*)
- Minstrelsy, the Vaudeville, and Tin Pan Alley
- Rural & Electric Blues
- Rural & Electric Country
- Rhythm & Blues to Rock & Roll (no exam on this unit, lectures only)

* All of this material was covered in high school. Many of the test questions are taken from the U.S. Civics Exam for Naturalization, given by the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services. See the practice exam at http://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/learners/study-test/study-materials-civics-test

During our adventure, I will provide a review of American history, through the medium of song, that will include an overview of people and historical events, facts, and outcomes that old people (me + your future employer) will assume that you know;

I will lead us through an exploration of the nature of prejudice and manipulation—so that I can demonstrate that most of our beliefs were fed to us by individuals or groups with a particular agenda and so that I can show how music has often been used as the vehicle for the delivery and reinforcement of those prejudices; and, in addition,

I will lead us through an exploration of how it is now fashionable to go out of one's way to misrepresent what is being said (or meant)—so that I can demonstrate how our society has become obsessed with political correctness and so that I can illustrate how each new day demands yet another apology from someone who has said something that is fundamentally true but who has "hurt someone's feelings."

Music and its song-texts both reflect and impact a society; by examining these recorded examples in their historical context, we can come to understand much about our society that has been omitted, for various reasons, from history textbooks.
Using music as the historical vehicle, we will discuss how prejudices are formed and perpetuated by small groups of individuals, religious institutions, the entertainment industry, major corporations, and the United States government—leading us, often in subtle ways, to think "this way" or "that way."

During our adventure, you will hear a lot of things that you are not going to like and that will challenge the way that you think. In many cases, these will be historical facts, not "opinions" that have been fed to you by people with a particular agenda; in other cases, statements will be presented for their shock value to get you to THINK! . . . for yourself!

If hear something don't like, think about it and then either accept it or reject it (="get over yourself" and act like you're in college); if, however, you do not have the academic maturity to understand why you're enrolled in college (= to challenge what you already know to be unquestionably correct, true, and perfect in every way), drop the class.

Central to our investigation will be issues of freedom of speech and artistic freedom vs. the good of our society-at-large. Consequently, some of my lectures, text material, and song-texts will contain language, content, and references that some persons may find to be controversial, unsettling, or even offensive.

All of our song-texts have been freely broadcast on public radio stations, which is an issue that we will also discuss. You have no right to complain that a class about "sex, drugs, and rock-and-roll" will touch on issue of "sex, drugs, and rock-and-roll."

Likewise, part of the class experience is to understand how the meanings of (often sexually or racially charged) words change from one generation to the next, and how these changes lead to misunderstandings between one group and another in which neither side truly understands what the other is saying.

Be aware that it is my personal teaching style to approach these difficult (but much-needed-to-be-discussed) topics in a light-hearted manner rather than in the façade of a staid and somber college professor sporting the tweed jacket with suede elbow patches.

Be aware that I will often quote or make reference to pop-culture songs, movie-texts, Internet events, etc. with which you might (or might not) be familiar. Before you take offense, be aware that you may not understand the particular reference in this particular context or that the reference may be setting up a relevant discussion that's going to take place "tomorrow."

Likewise, be aware that the class is designed as a stage show rather than as an academic lecture, with our class "lectures" modeled after the 19th-century vaudeville and which will regularly go off-topic and be filled with chaos, sound effects, double entendres, irreverent sarcasm, right-wing propaganda, and doughnut giveaways.

Please note that all MUET 3020 course requirements and deadlines are clearly explained, in advance of the course, in the course policy and syllabus; that this course is not required on any degree plan at the University of North Texas; and that all students will be treated fairly and equally (= no exception will be made for one student that is not being made for all students).

I simply will not tolerate a victim mentality in students enrolled in an academic institution of higher learning = "I'm not passing this course because the instructor . . ."

If you are not passing this class or believe you have cause to complain, it is for the simple and singular reason that you did not read the course policy and syllabus, the Blackboard homepage,
and my e-mails, did not watch my videos, did not follow directions, and/or did not meet the requirements and deadlines that were explained to you on the first day of class.

Before you complain about any professor, be aware that the university provides severe penalties for "furnishing false or misleading information to the university or university official" (i.e., "shading the truth" or leaving out information that would clearly show that the problem was caused by your own negligence, inaction, or outright laziness), per the *UNT Code of Conduct 18.1.11.*

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MUET 3020 is not a required course on any degree plan at the University of North Texas.

If you feel that you will be offended by this teaching style, this material, these discussions, or these requirements and it is your responsibility to drop the class.

Signed drop slips will be available on the door to my office until 12:00 noon on Monday, 2 March.
PART TWO:  **HOW WE'RE GOING TO GET THERE**

01. **READ ME and then SAVE ME TO YOUR DESKTOP**

Before you do anything else, read the course policy and syllabus and then either make a print copy or save the file to your desktop.

Ignore this and you won't know what you're supposed to do, you will score poorly on the Sample Test (during which you will hold a print copy of these documents "in hand"), and you will e-mail annoying questions to the people who have already given you the answers.

Have a question? This is a Word doc.; this is 2015. Do a word search.

Still have a question? Watch the introductory videos, where I explain it.

02. **Technical Difficulties with Logging into Blackboard**

Please note that course instructors cannot access the system to isolate any technical problem or provide technical assistance.

Contact the Helpdesk at (940) 565-2324 if you have technical difficulty accessing the online material, but do not accept the quick-fix response that "the instructor must have blocked you from the course."

Unless you've been using the MUET 3020 Blackboard system to send e-mails to your classmates (see section 05), I haven't blocked you from accessing the course content or exams. If you've been blocked, you've been blocked by the Office of the Registrar or by the Bursar's Office for non-payment.

03. **Course Instructor's Notifications on the Homepage, in E-Mails, and via Video**

Important information will be posted on the homepage of your Blackboard website, sent to you via e-mail through the Blackboard e-mail system (not through EagleConnect), or relayed in my videos. You are expected to log on to read the information posted on the homepage, read my e-mails, and watch my videos at least once every 48 hours.

Look "right now" to be sure that you can find your online e-mail (see the "Messages" link at the left-hand side of the homepage).

04. **Alternate Website** [www.thomassovik.com](http://www.thomassovik.com) (bookmark this site)

For your convenience (= everything in one place), this site has links to take you to our McGraw-Hill website, our Blackboard website, our videocast site, and our off-campus message board. It's where I'll post information about "what to do next" if the university system goes south. It's also where you can see "Cats that look like Hitler."

05. **Student Use of Group E-Mail**

We have the persistent problem of students using the class e-mail system to collaborate on the workbook (= academic misconduct) or otherwise annoy the masses by asking questions to which
I have already given the answers and then with other students responding to the masses with incorrect information.

In the past, students have posted incorrect web addresses and login information—unleashing a panic flurry of e-mails to the instructor—and have even posted incorrect times for exams that then caused other students to miss those exams.

Consequently, if you use the Blackboard system to send ANY group e-mail to the class—which includes "responding" to any group e-mail—you will be blocked from accessing MUET 3020 for the remainder of the semester. Without Blackboard access, you must then either attend the face-to-face section in progress or take an Incomplete and repeat the course in a face-to-face section in some subsequent semester.

The only people to whom you may send e-mails through the Blackboard system are the following:

- Dr. Tom Sovík (the course instructor)
- Mr. Devin Iler
- Mr. Lance Russell
- Mr. Jason Patterson
- Mr. Jakob Schwarz

**Mandatory Preliminary Exercises**

**06. Who are you?**

If you marry and/or otherwise change your name and tell "the university," please be aware that there is no system in place that notifies "the instructors." Save both yourself and all of your instructors the headache simply by sending us an e-mail. Otherwise, you're an unknown entity in the gradebook and we have no choice but to award a failing grade to the mystery person who otherwise has completed all of the coursework.

**07. Sample Test**

So that I can be assured that you are "you" and that you understand what is expected, you must confirm your log-in via completion of the "Sample Test" with a perfect score of "10" (not 9.75) points, on a 40-question test, by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, 2 February.

You will be given unlimited attempts to score a perfect score of 10 points on the Sample Test; only the highest grade will be recorded. You must end up with a "10" in order to remain in the class. Your submitted test will appear on the screen after each attempt; your responses will be shown as either correct or incorrect.

Keep re-taking the test until you see a "10" in the gradebook column. These 10 points assure me that you know how the course will be conducted; anything less than a "10" tells me that you couldn't be bothered to re-read the course policy and re-take the Sample Test. This will result in your being dropped from the course with the grade of WF.

These 10 points are then added to your pre-final total (see number 45).
The Sample Test will be posted at 12:00 noon on Monday, 26 January; you must complete this test, with a perfect score of 10 points, no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, 2 February.

If you do not complete the Sample Test by this deadline and you do not drop the class by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, 2 March, you will be dropped from the class with the grade of WF on Tuesday, 3 March. Please be aware that, while a W would not affect your GPA, my WF will count as an "F."

Should you wish to drop the class with a W (instead of being dropped from the class with a WF), please pick up a signed drop slip from our Division Administrative Assistant in room 242, College of Music. Signed drop slips will be available "when you need them"—from "now" until 12:00 noon on Monday, 2 March.

Please be aware that, after Monday, 2 March you cannot drop the class with W if you are already failing the class (i.e., did not complete the Sample Test with a perfect score of "10").

08a. Required Course Materials (purchase/registration required in order to remain enrolled)

Required course materials include an online McGraw-Hill textbook and fill-in-the-blank workbook (both required purchase) as well as an online Blackboard textbook (provided without cost).

The online McGraw-Hill textbook, as well as the online workbook, will be available as soon as you complete the online purchase of these materials.

Note that you must OPEN the online workbook and textbook for these materials to register. Do not simply look at the front cover. OPEN the book (and then READ the book).

You will be tested over the Preface, the Introduction, and Unit 1 of the McGraw-Hill textbook (see the syllabus); you will not be tested over Unit 2 (the music section) of the McGraw-Hill textbook.

The online textbook for our remaining content units will be posted as Blackboard learning modules, in segments, to parallel our in-class progress.

Instructions on how to purchase AND REGISTER your McGraw-Hill textbook and workbook are available on the Blackboard homepage to MUET 3020; you must purchase AND REGISTER these materials no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, 2 February (at which time I will receive a print-out from McGraw-Hill).

Be aware that you will not see an "OK" in your online gradebook, confirming that you have purchased and REGISTERED these materials, until Friday, 6 February.

Alternatively, your McGraw-Hill materials are available, via a code card, at the UNT Bookstore.

Note that not all independent retailers carry the full UNT inventory of textbooks that are required for university classes.

Purchase AND REGISTER your McGraw-Hill materials "today."

In the unlikely event that the UNT Bookstore runs out of these materials, we won't know how many to acquire on emergency order if you haven't already placed your order at the UNT Bookstore.
No extension for purchasing AND REGISTERING your course materials can be granted due to problems with financial aid. School began—for all of us—on Wednesday, 21 January.

No extension for purchasing AND REGISTERING your course materials can be granted for being an off-campus student. School began—for all of us—on Wednesday, 21 January.

If you do not purchase AND REGISTER your McGraw-Hill materials by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, 2 February and you do not drop the class by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, 2 March, you will be dropped from the class with the grade of WF on Tuesday, 3 March. Please be aware that, while a W would not affect your GPA, my WF will count as an "F."

Should you wish to drop the class with a W (instead of being dropped from the class with a WF), please pick up a signed drop slip from our Division Administrative Assistant in room 242, College of Music. Signed drop slips will be available "when you need them"—from "now" until 12:00 noon on Monday, 2 March.

Please be aware that, after Monday, 2 March, you cannot drop the class with W if you are already failing the class (i.e., did not purchase your McGraw-Hill materials by the deadline).

08b. Required Course Materials (purchase required; you will need a copy "in hand" during each of the online exams)

Greg Lukianoff's *Freedom from Speech* (available at the UNT Bookstore).

09. Previously Purchased Course Materials

If you have previously taken MUET 3020 and purchased your MgH textbook and workbook, you must TELL Mr. Russell the semester in which you took MUET 3020 in order for him to manually enter your "OK" into the gradebook.

If you do not contact Mr. Russell in time for him to verify—PRIOR TO 5:00 p.m. on Monday, 2 February—that you have purchased these materials, no "OK" will have been entered in the gradebook and you will be dropped from the class with a WF.

Do not procrastinate. Do this "now."

10. Gradebook Confirmation = YOUR Responsibility

I assume that your grade is important to you; I will, therefore, make every effort to keep you abreast of your progress in the class via an online gradebook. You, however, must assume responsibility for checking—in a timely manner—the accuracy of that online gradebook.

Check to see that your gradebook shows the grade for your Sample Test (automatically uploaded) and that two "OK’s" has been entered to confirm your purchase of your McGraw-Hill materials. If you do not see these grades recorded by Friday, 6 February, please contact Mr. Patterson through the Blackboard e-mail system.

Look "right now" to be sure that you can find your online gradebook (see the "My Grades" link at the left-hand side of the homepage).
Getting the 411


MUET 3020 has been purchased by McGraw-Hill Publications for international distribution as one of their "super-courses"—complete with off-site video interviews and high-tech interactive games. Construction is in progress.

The problem with the (older) "UNT version" is that the course was built in WebCT, the university migrated the content to WebCT Vista, and then migrated the content to WebCT Blackboard—with miscellaneous code added with each new upload, each semester. Unfortunately, there is no way to fix the problems without beginning from scratch (= the McGraw-Hill version).

The course material and exam for the (McGraw-Hill) American History unit are new, although the links are not active due to copyright law.

The course materials and exams for the (Blackboard) Tin Pan Alley, Blues, and Country units are from a previous (but a perfectly workable) UNT version of the course material. In this version, you will occasionally notice white spaces of "nothing," a few sentences with overlapping text, etc.

You will not see any content posted for our 5th content unit (Rhythm & Blues to Rock & Roll). After we complete the Country unit, you will access this material solely via the in-class presentations and videocasts (if we actually get this far in the semester).

12. Using the McGraw-Hill Workbook

Because we will be using an older version of the online Blackboard textbook for the Tin Pan Alley, Blues, and Country units, we will be posting an older series of exams for these units.

Your McGraw-Hill workbook contains all of our exam questions, but you may have to go beyond the Blackboard textbook (i.e., to the videocasts) to find all of the answers.

All of the answers for the exam questions in these three content units will come from the online Blackboard textbook (the text, as well as the supplementary text boxes that also appear on your screen) and the videocasts. No answers will come from the links that are embedded in the online textbook.

Please be aware there are many more questions in the workbook than on the exams (because you're getting the easy version of the class in Spring 2015).

Workbook questions are not presented in order, nor should you expect to see exam questions worded in exactly the same manner as they're worded in the workbook. This workbook is not designed to take you step-by-step through the semester, but to tie content material together so that you receive the big picture.

Do not write to the instructor, the teaching assistants, or other members of the class with "I can't find the answer." Make "improvise, adapt, overcome" your mantra. Find the answer. If you can't find the answer in the online textbook or in the videocasts, then it’s not on the exam.
13. **Print the Workbook** (mandatory if sitting in a face-to-face section)

Considering that your content-unit exams will be based on this workbook and that no one will be watching while you take these (non-required) open-book, multiple-choice exams, you would be incredibly foolish not to use this workbook . . . wisely.

The workbook is not a group project; collaborating on the workbook will be considered academic misconduct. Please do your own work and do your own learning.

14. **Music**

None of the music links in the McGraw-Hill online textbook or the Blackboard online learning modules are active. The copyright police (who actually have representatives enroll in the class to watch what we're doing) will not allow us to post active music links in the Internet version of MUET 3020 if we are playing that same music in our videocast of a face-to-face section.

The face-to-face people already hear the music "live"; those in an Internet section hear the music via the videocasts. According to current copyright law, you are permitted to hear the music in one, and only one, format.

Until MUET 3020 is published as a 100% interactive e-book (with no face-to-face sections or live class lectures), music and other material cannot be delivered by links within the text.

15. **Videocasts**

Exam questions will be drawn from our online McGraw-Hill and Blackboard textbooks as well as from our (videotaped) class lectures; important information may be given to you in the videocasts (only). **You cannot pass the class without watching the videocasts!**

You will be able to view my lectures via videocast but, due to a different set of copyright restrictions, the movie days and movie clips will not be recorded.

Access our videocast site using a browser (download a free one) other than Internet Explorer, which often does not recognize our videocast address.

- Access this website: sovik.music.unt.edu (do NOT type in "www")
- Access UserID: kimber61
- Access Password: kimber61

The access ID and the password to the videocast site will change during the course of the semester; you will be given to your new access information via e-mail.

The videocasts are posted unedited, which means that you'll hear all of the grunting, the getting lost and going off on tangents, the bad jokes, the dropping of the microphone and having it roll across the floor, etc. The unedited nature of the videocasts means that we're able to put these up immediately after class rather than "sometime next month."

Videocasts may not last the "full" class period (because, due to copyright restrictions, we can't record any of the movies or movie clips).

The College of Music is notorious for its power blips; these shut down the videocast website, and it may take us as long as 48 hours to reset the site by hand. All you can do is check back later.
Exams, however, will not be postponed simply because the videocast site is temporarily unavailable. Do not wait until the night before the exam to begin listening to that unit’s lectures.

**Attendance in Face-to-Face Sections (-001, -002)**

From the Vice President of Academic Affairs: This academic year we are going to be focusing on "excellence in the classroom." We will encourage all faculty . . . to emphasize to students that attendance is, indeed, vital to taking their course.

Please refer back to this statement if you are marked absent for not attending, sleeping, playing on your cell phone, etc.

16. Attendance

Regular (physical) attendance is expected of students enrolled face-to-face sections. We will begin taking attendance on Friday, 23 January.

Three class absences (i.e., three 50-minute periods) may be taken without penalty; a 4<sup>th</sup> absence automatically lowers the final grade by one letter; a 5<sup>th</sup> absence automatically lowers the final grade by an additional letter. You fail at the 6<sup>th</sup> absence regardless of your point standing in the class.

You are permitted three "vacation absences." There are no make-ups for illness, personal or family emergencies, car breakdowns, etc. Save your "vacation absences" for those illness, personal or family emergencies, car breakdowns etc. because you can't get "more" (even for a genuine emergency). This is how it works in the real world—and even with the verification of a true emergency by the Dean of Students Office.

Directly from the DOS Office:

. . . your professors have no obligation to make temporary adjustments [for illness, death in the family, etc.]. If they decline to allow adjustments you may need to withdraw from the course, take an Incomplete, or repeat the class in the future.

To be sure that you will be successful in MUET 3020 and in fairness to every other student who is enrolled in the class, no "exceptions" will be considered. If you must experience excessive or extended absence from MUET 3020, it is only logical that you withdraw from the course.

Attendance is taken at the beginning of each class session via a sign-in sheet. When the sheet comes to you, sign it immediately and then immediately pass it on to the next person. If you do not sign the sign-in sheet, you are absent. There is no exception; there is no appeal.

If, for whatever reason, the sign-in sheet doesn't cross your desk, it is your responsibility to tell Mr. Russell at the completion of that particular class.

Track your absence-dates so that you won't be unpleasantly surprised if you go over your limit.

(Music people) As we approach the end of the semester, please remember that a jury conflict is not an excused absence; your applied area must make accommodation for you to take your jury at a time that does not conflict with your academic classes.
**17. Late Entrance**

You are expected to be in class for the duration of each class; each partial class is considered a full absence. If you are not sitting in your assigned seat once the instructor begins speaking—you are absent.

If you are late (not permitted to sign the roll sheet = absent), you may enter and attend class if the door remains unlocked. Enter through the upper (back) entrance and then sit at the back of the lecture hall. Do not disrupt the class by moving to your regular seat.

Both the drinking fountain and the pencil sharpener are off limits once the instructor begins speaking.

**18. Blocked Entrance**

The door to the classroom may be secured at the beginning of the session; in this case, for safety reasons (darkened room), students are not permitted to enter.

Do not disturb an in-session class by knocking on a door that has been secured. You will not be admitted; if you persist, you will be referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.

**19. Early Departure**

Although you would be considered absent (your signature will be crossed off the roll sheet), you may leave class early by exiting through the upper (back) doors. You must, however, show your student ID to Mr. Russell upon departing at the back of the hall and, once you leave, don't come back.

Failure to follow this procedure will be considered academic misconduct and the matter will be referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.

Please use the restroom before you come to class (because once you leave, don't come back).

If you need a medical exception to this policy, you must provide to the instructor, in advance, a letter from the ODA; in this case, we will seat you by the exit for your personal safety and so that you will not disturb other class members by exiting and returning.

**20. University-Excused Absence**

You will be excused from class attendance for a university-sanctioned athletic trip, music performance, observation, etc. Please give a printed copy of the official letter, before the event, to Mr. Russell.

*Note that illness, death in the family, etc. are NOT university-excused absences!*

**21. What to Bring to Class**

You are expected to bring the print copy of your McGraw-Hill workbook and a working pen or sharpened pencil to every class. If you arrive without these materials, you are absent.
You are expected to participate in class by actively taking notes in your workbook—the only material on your desk—throughout the duration of that day’s lecture. Otherwise, you are absent.

22. What NOT to Bring to Class

Bad attitude. Bad manners.

Because it demonstrates a basic lack of courtesy toward the instructor and to those around you, if you are gabbing with your neighbor, you are absent.

Do not bring other materials to class if you might be tempted to focus on something other than my lectures, music, or videos about the history of popular music. If you are not actively participating in this class, you are absent.

Actively participating in this class means that you will be working in a print copy of the McGraw-Hill workbook, on your desk, throughout the duration of that day’s lecture.

Do not bring the North Texas Daily, similar reading material, your CD player, your MP3 or iPod, or your laptop or iPad to class. If you have an open laptop (etc.), are reading a newspaper or magazine, are working on another class assignment, wearing headphones, sending wireless e-mails or text-messaging, sleeping, etc., you are absent.

No hats, hoods, ball caps, sunglasses etc. are permitted; see the instructor if you need an explanation or if you need a religious (hijab, etc. = perfectly acceptable) or medical exception. If you are otherwise wearing any of the above during class, you are absent.

To ensure that we adhere to fire code, do not bring your instrument or your bicycle etc. to class. For the same reason, do not place anything—including backpacks—in the aisle or at the front or back of the room.

Turn your cell phone OFF (not merely to "silent" or "vibrate"). If you are using your cell phone during class, you are absent. Likewise, if your cell phone rings during class, you are absent.

Note that if you were marked absent (for coming in late, playing with your iPhone, wearing a hat, not having your workbook, sleeping, etc.), this event was recorded by two graduate teaching assistants who were working independently of one another and standing on opposite side of the lecture hall.

23. Smoking

Stop.

University policy prohibits smoking within the building.

24. Consumption of Food & Beverage

Consumption of food and/or beverage in university classrooms varies by room and, if permitted, is at the discretion of the instructor.

☐ No, you cannot bring food and/or beverage into this particular classroom.
Yes, you can bring food and/or beverage into this particular classroom. Please deposit all trash into the appropriate receptacle at the end of each class session.

**Attendance in Internet Sections (-200, -300)**

From the Vice President of Academic Affairs: This academic year we are going to be focusing on "excellence in the classroom." We will encourage all faculty . . . to emphasize to students that attendance is, indeed, vital to taking their course.

Please refer back to this statement if you are marked absent for missing an Internet attendance call.

**25. Attendance**

MUET 3020 is not a "do-it-when-you-want" experience. Internet attendance is expected of students enrolled in sections 200 and 300. We will begin taking attendance on Friday, 23 January.

DO NOT respond to an attendance call until we actually MAKE that attendance call. The attendance call(s) will be obvious. I'll say "This is an attendance call," I'll explain what to do, and I'll give you the codeword.

Focus! Watching the videos on your Smartphone while you're driving or having me on as "background noise" while doing something else will inevitably lead to missing an attendance call (as well as other important information).

During the course of the semester, you will be asked on six occasions to confirm your attendance, via an e-mail to Mr. Russell, within 1 week. This request may come to you in the body of an e-mail or it may come to you during one of my video lectures (= so that I can be sure that you are reading my e-mails and watching my videos in a timely manner).

If you do not confirm your attendance by sending the codeword in the subject line of an e-mail to Mr. Russell within 1 week of when you are asked to do so, you will received a "4" in your absence column in your online gradebook; this "4" tells the computer to lower your final grade by one letter. A second "no response" will generate a "5" in your online gradebook to automatically lower the final grade by two letters. You fail at the third "no response" (a "6" in the gradebook) regardless of your point standing in the class.

The face-to-face section, in which the Internet attendance call will be issued, meets from 9:00-9:50 MWF. If I call for attendance on a Monday, your response will be required no later than 9:50 of following Monday, etc.

Given that students enrolled in MUET 3020 are required to log in (to read both the homepage and my e-mails and to watch my videos) at least once every 48 hours, missing an Internet attendance call would mean that you were more than 3x past the time-requirement to log in and respond.
What If . . . ?

26. Financial Aid & Satisfactory Academic Progress

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 registered hours per term. 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 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. Please visit http://financialaid.unt.edu/satisfactory-academic-progress-requirements for more information. Before dropping a course, it may be wise for you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor or to visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships Office.

27. University Progress Reports

If you need a signature to verify that you have been attending class, are making satisfactory progress, etc., please contact Mr. Patterson through the Blackboard e-mail system.

28. Special Needs

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter so that we may begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request an accommodation at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation.

Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class.

For additional information, see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at http://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone at (940) 565-4323.

29. Military

Special attendance considerations (conflicts with drill weekends, etc.), free McGraw-Hill course materials, and free tickets to the UNT Talent Show are provided to past, active, and reserve members of our Armed Forces; please identify yourself (and branch of service) to the instructor no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, 23 January.

Participation

30. Participation = University Capstone Requirement

The university requires all students enrolled in a Capstone class to meet a "participation" requirement even if taking that class by Internet and from the other side of the world. Note that this is NOT a requirement of "the course instructor."
"Participation" is a university requirement in the new Capstone courses. It is required of ALL students, not just those students in face-to-face sections.

"Participation" = everything that you do in this course aside from taking (non-required) open-book, multiple-choice exams.

"Participation" = the trade-off for the fact that there is no homework and that your four non-required content-unit exams are open-book, multiple-choice exams!

### 31. Participation Option #1—Essay on Freedom from Speech (possible 50 points)

Key statement from the broadside penned by Greg Lukianoff:

> It is also important to recognize that even if a speaker does happen to be entirely wrong, we might learn more about our own beliefs or about the complex relationships among beliefs by allowing that person to speak.

> Rather than teaching students to be skeptical of confirmation bias, [today’s liberal college professors] appear to be teaching them to have an expectation of confirmation: a sense of entitlement to an environment in which their beliefs are not contradicted . . .

Full or partial credit toward the pre-final tally may be earned by writing a 5-6 page double-spaced (12-point type with 1-inch margins) essay. Absolutely no credit will be given for essays under the full 5-page minimum.

This essay, with substantially more depth than you can find in the summaries on Amazon.com etc., must clearly demonstrate that you have not only read the work but also digested its content; your opinions (pro or con) must be woven into your narrative.

Quotes directly from the broadside should be "minimal."

Your essay must contain at least three references to three different instances—in three different classrooms with three different instructors—in which you were offended or made to feel uncomfortable by something the professor said or at which you initially thought that your professor was "wrong" . . . and which led to an outcome where you came to be convinced that the professor was either "factually correct" or at least "pedagogically appropriate" in the manner in which some thought-provoking idea was presented.

Relate everything in your essay to the argument(s) made by the author, and—after an introduction—separate each of your subsections with a subtitle—and then finish with a conclusion. In other words, your essay will have five distinct sections.

You must submit your essay to Mr. Schwarz through the Blackboard e-mail system no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, 27 February.

Completed essays are reviewed by independent university graders (i.e., not "us").

Additional information will follow.

### 32. Participation Option #2—Posting on the Message Board (possible 50 points)

I've posted a message board at www.thomassovik.com; the board will become active at 12:00 noon on Friday, 23 January.
To ensure a fiery exchange within controversial threads that directly relate to class content, you will not identify yourself by name (. . . but you will have to play "nicely" [the correct adverb]).

Set up (= register) your account using your EUID as your username (e.g., tps0007). See the upper left-hand corner of the login page once you get to the message board.

Do not use your social security number, your real name, or a fake screen name as your username. Use your EUID! If you do not use your correct EUID, the system will not recognize you as "you" and you will not receive credit.

Set up a password of your own choosing . . . and then enter the forum itself using "sovik61" as the generic password to access the board.

You may post multiple times; you may post in multiple threads.

The message board will be available until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, 27 February.

Message board posts are reviewed by independent university graders (i.e., not "us"). Fifty points of "participation credit" will be added to the pre-final tally of those students with the most thoughtful and well-articulated posts that are written in a style and manner of a university scholar engaged in an educated debate (i.e., not for writing "I agree with tps0007").

At least five thoughtful and well-articulated posts, each written in a style and manner of a university scholar engaged in an educated debate, are required for 50 points.

Points will be posted on Monday, 4 May.

Additional information will follow.

33. Participation Option #3—"My Funny Valentine" (possible 50 points or the removal of 3 absences)

This event is a companion activity to our Fall-semester Halloween walk-off, where 30 students parade in costume and then those dressed the most creative handmade costumes are selected by the class for a walk-off (see the movie Zoolander).

One lucky student will then win dinner-for-two with Dr. & Mrs. Sovík at the Downtown Fort Worth Cheesecake Factory as well as two tickets to the 7:30 p.m. Friday, 13 February "Lizard Winter Wonderland Concert" by the Austin Lounge Lizards at McDavid Studio (Bass Hall, Fort Worth).

Additional information will follow.

34. Participation Option #4—Participating in the Talent Show (possible 200 points)

Opportunities for participating are legion, with generous participation credit awarded for active involvement.

Participating in a talent act or as dancer or primary cast-crew member etc. will add 200 points to your pre-final total; helping as a ticket-taker or vote-counter etc. will add 100 points. Plus,
you can still bring up to five guests for an additional 150 points of participation credit (= max. 350 points, see section 35).

Additional information will follow.

35. Participation Option #5a—Attending the Talent Show (possible 200 points)

"The University of North Texas Talent Show" is scheduled for 7:00-10:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 15 April, in the Main Auditorium on the UNT campus. This will be a variety show and amateur talent contest produced by students enrolled in MUET 3020 (all students in all sections are invited to participate and/or attend).

The show—in the form of the 19th-century vaudeville (directly related to MUET 3020)—will be open to the public. Fabulous prizes will be awarded. Admission will be $5.00 for UNT students and $7.00 for others (we actually have to pay to rent the Main Auditorium and the sound system, to hire the band, to purchase those prizes, etc.; any profit goes toward student scholarships).

Why don't we build the cost of show tickets into the cost of the course? While the university charges all students for things that not all students might use (library, computer labs, etc.), the underlying theme of MUET 3020 is one of "fairness." If you choose to attend the Talent Show, you pay; if you choose to acquire your participation points through one of the many no-cost options, you don't pay.

Five (of six) participation activities may be accomplished "without cost." Ergo, don't complain—after not doing the no-cost academic work—that you have to "buy" a grade . . . as this is nothing more than nonsensical whining. Also note that attending music events—for which the student must pay admission and which will then be counted for academic credit—is in full accord with College of Music academic policy.

- any student enrolled in MUET 3020 who attends "The $5 Vaudeville" will be awarded 50 points of participation credit added to the pre-final tally;
- if the student both attends and brings a guest (at 30 points) to the show, 80 points of participation credit will be added to the pre-final tally.
- if the student both attends and brings TWO guests (at 60 points) to the show, 110 points will added to the pre-final tally;
- and so on (i.e., you receive 50 points if "you" attend and 30 points per "other" person attending), up to 5 people + you, for a maximum of 200 points.

Note that if you are participating in the show, you will receive either the 200 points or the 100 points (depending on what you do) in lieu of the 50 points that you would receive merely by attending. In other words, you can actively participate in the show (for 200/100 points) and still bring up to five guests at 30 points per guest.

Additional information will follow.
36. Participation Option #5b—Attending the Talent Show via PPV (possible 200 points)

If you are an "on-campus" student, you must physically attend the show in order to receive credit.

The university defines an "off-campus" student as being one who (a) lives more than 50 miles from the Denton campus and (b) physically attends no classes on the Denton campus. An off-campus student enrolled in MUET 3020 may "attend" the talent show via pay-per-view; he or she may also invite guests to watch the show so that the student can receive the same number of participation points, at the same cost-per-ticket, that a student who physically attends the show (with guests) can receive.

Additional information will follow.

37. Participation Option #6—Essay Option (possible 200 points)

In lieu of participating in or attending the Talent Show, full or partial credit toward the pre-final tally may be earned by writing a 15-20 page double-spaced (12-point type with 1-inch margins) essay. Absolutely no credit will be given for essays under the 15-page minimum.

This essay, with substantially more depth than you can find in the summaries on Amazon.com etc., must be on one of the texts listed below. You must clearly demonstrate that you have not only read the work but also digested its content; your opinions (pro or con) must be woven into your narrative.

You must register (for approval) your text with the instructor no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, 30 January; please send a 250-word summary of why you would like to read and write on your particular selection.

You must then submit your essay to Mr. Schwarz through the Blackboard e-mail system no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, 27 February.

Completed essays are reviewed by independent university graders (i.e., not "us").

Points will be posted on Monday, 4 May.

Additional information will follow.

* 

Check the library. These books are also readily available from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, etc.

Allen, Steve. *Dumbth: The Lost Art of Thinking*.


Berman, Morris. *The Twilight of American Culture*.

Bork, Robert: *Slouching Towards Gomorrah: Modern Liberalism and American Decline*. 


Delbanco, Andrew. *The Death of Satan: How Americans Have Lost the Sense of Evil.*

Hughes, Jonnie. *On the Origin of Tepees: The Evolution of Ideas (and Ourselves).*


Jackson, Maggie and Bill McKibben. *Distracted: The Erosion of Attention and the Coming of the Dark Age.*


38. Participation Option #7—Amon Carter Museum (possible 50 points or the removal of 3 absences)

Full or partial credit toward the pre-final tally (or the erasure of up to three absences) may be earned by

(1) researching two pieces from the Amon Carter collection (viewable online),
(2) writing two 5-page, double-spaced essays in 12-point type with 1-inch margins addressing such issues as their artists, the history of the works, what the student finds to be of particular interest in these works, and how these works relate to how history is recorded in media (absolutely no credit will be given for essays under the 5-page minimums),
(3) and attending our fieldtrip to the Amon Carter Museum.

Please note that this opportunity is "either/or," which you will indicate on a form that you complete at the Amon Carter Museum. You can receive the "points" or you can receive the "absence credits"; the credit cannot be split between points and absences . . . and once the decision has been made (at the Amon Carter), your decision cannot be changed.

You must submit your essays (first come; first served!) to Mr. Schwarz through the Blackboard e-mail system no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, 6 March.

Essays will be reviewed by independent university graders (i.e., not "us").

Students who submit acceptable essays will be notified on Friday, 6 March.
Following our acceptance of these essays, you must then attend a guided visit to the Amon Carter museum from 1:30-5:00 on Saturday, 18 April (transportation via privately owned vehicle) to not only tour the museum in general (no admission charge) but also to see the works upon which the essays were written and to complete a museum worksheet.

Both the essays and the field trip must be completed for credit / absence credit to be awarded.

Please note that only 50 spaces will be available; do not count on this option as the last-minute attempt to pass the class as there may not be a space available for you to attend.

Additional information will follow.

See information on parking here:  http://www.cartermuseum.org/visit

39. You NEED the Participation Credit!

Please be acutely aware that you are expected to do more than "take the exams" in a Capstone course.

Even if you score a perfect score on all of the content-unit exams, the best grade that you can receive without the participation points is the lowest possible "D."

If, however, you took full advantage of the participation opportunities in this class, you could receive a "A" as your final grade by way of your participation points alone . . . without ever taking a single exam!

In other words, you can score an "A" in this class by any combination of exam points + participation points (or) an "A" simply by participation points.

40. Additional Extra Credit

No additional extra-credit opportunities will be available. Simply do the work that you're supposed to be doing and take advantage—in a timely manner (plan ahead!)—of the generous opportunities for participation credit as described above.

Assignments & Exams

41. Time

If you are submitting work, taking exams, etc. from afar, please note that MUET 3020 runs on U.S. Central Time and not the local time from wherever you might be in the world. This is important to remember if you are taking an exam, submitting an assignment, or responding to a call for an Internet attendance check and you working from a different time zone.

42. Unit and Comprehensive Replacement Exams

All exams in MUET 3020 are completed online, on the Blackboard system (for the single exception, see section 46).
Dates for the content-unit exams will be announced in class lectures and in the videocasts, with exams posted at 11:00 a.m. on Friday and available through 11:59 p.m. the following Monday unless otherwise noted.

It is imperative that you read the online text, watch my videocasts, and use your fill-in-the-blank workbook before attempting the exam; you will not have time to flip back through the screens to find the answers.

Please note that not all students receive the same exam; questions for a specific exam are randomly selected by the system from a bank of questions related to that particular content unit.

Each unit exam is over the material in that content unit. Exams consist of 60 multiple-choice questions, each worth one point, timed at one minute per question, and which cannot be re-accessed once you move to the next question.

Please be aware that, if you do not save and submit your answers within the allotted time frame, those answers will not be scored. Watch the timer!

Watch for notices on the main Blackboard homepage regarding "down times" for Blackboard maintenance. If you attempt to take an exam during an announced down time and then experience a system failure, that exam will not be reset.

Be aware that your gradebook records "points" for your content-unit exams, not "percentages"; to calculate your percentage on a 60-point exam, multiply x 90% = A, 80% = B, etc.

43. Technical Difficulties during Unit and Comprehensive Replacement Exams

When you enter the Blackboard system you will be instructed to run a browser check and to disable pop-up blockers; do this prior to every exam. Failure to do so will result in "crash and burn" even if the system appears to be working.

Do not assume that the computer you used in the computer lab "last week" (the one that worked "just fine") hasn't been reset by someone since your last visit.

The system works, and it works extremely well; 99.98% of all technical failures are due to the student not taking the time to run the browser check or disable pop-up blockers. Be sure to contact the Helpdesk if you need assistance in running the browser check, turning off pop-up blockers etc. in advance of taking an exam.

There was, unfortunately, a very long history of students opening the exams, printing them off, and then claiming "technical failure" so that they could have two or three days to look up the answers before attempting a retake.

Taking an Internet class presupposes that the student understands that it is his/her responsibility to have a working computer and working Internet access. Use a hardwire connection rather than wireless; make sure that your battery is fully charged. If your Internet access at home is not working, come to the university or go to a Starbucks, McDonalds, etc.

Consequently:

• do not contact the Helpdesk for an "incident report" if you have a submission failure; all this does is record that you "called" about a problem and gives you a false sense of confidence that
the exam will be reposted (after you didn't correctly set your browser or turn off your pop-up blockers, went over the allotted time, experienced a problem with your personal computer, etc.).

- do not send the incident report from the Helpdesk to either the instructor or the teaching assistants. If the entire system goes down, Blackboard will notify me; if the entire system does not go down and it's a problem with "your" computer (dead battery, bad Internet connection, etc.), then you will need to proceed with the back-up plan of taking the Replacement Exam. There is no exception; there is no appeal.

- do not send a printout, fax, cut-&-paste, screenshot, or note from a lab monitor or electric company or Internet provider; these cannot be accepted as a remedy for a submission failure.

- I will NOT, once an exam has been opened, reset that exam unless there is a documented failure by the full Blackboard system, at which point I will receive an official notification directly from Blackboard.

If you have a submission failure, you should continue to take whatever exams are available for the remainder of the semester. This may help you to anticipate the type of questions you may see on the (comprehensive) Replacement Exam.

44. Reviewing Unit Exams

To prevent unscrupulous students from printing off and selling copies of the exams to other unscrupulous students (as has been done), a corrected version of the exam will not be available for online viewing after you submit your answers.

If you would like to schedule an on-campus, post-exam consultation to review your answers, please make an appointment with Mr. Patterson through the Blackboard e-mail system at least 48 hours prior to when you would like to review your exam(s).

You must bring a filled-in, print copy of the McGraw-Hill workbook to your post-exam consultation. Prior to printing off the exam for your review, the teaching assistant must verify that you have filled in the answers for that particular unit.

No post-exam reviews will be available after 12:00 noon on Wednesday, 6 May.

45. Replacement Exam

There is no Final Exam in MUET 3020.

The (comprehensive) Replacement Exam in MUET 3020 is optional. You are not required to take this exam; likewise, we are under no obligation to provide this "second-chance" exam nor are we required to give a "make-up" if you miss this exam or experience a technical failure.

This exam is provided as a "courtesy exercise." It can help you to raise your final grade, but it cannot lower your final grade.

If your combined grade on the Sample Test (10 points) and four content-unit exams (240 points) is **less** than your grade on the comprehensive 100-question/100-minute Replacement Exam (= 250 points)—the grade you score on your Replacement Exam + your participation points will determine your final grade in MUET 3020 . . . completely disregarding whatever you scored on your four unit exams.
If your combined grade on the Sample Test (10 points) and four content-unit exams (240 points) is greater than your grade on the comprehensive 100-question/100-minute Replacement Exam (= 250 points)—the grade you score on your four unit exams + your participation points will determine your final grade in MUET 3020 . . . completely disregarding whatever you scored on your Replacement Exam.

In other words, the grade you receive on the Replacement Exam can raise—but not lower—your final grade in MUET 3020.

The grade you score on your four content-unit exams and the grade you score on the Replacement Exam are not added together.

The grade you score on your four content-unit exams and the grade you score on the Replacement Exam are completely independent of one another. You automatically receive the higher of these two grades . . . and then your participation points are added to the highest of these two grades (pre-final exam grade or your grade on the Replacement Exam) to determine your grade in MUET 3020.

Remember that the Replacement Exam is the "second-chance Hail Mary" exam—an exam that you would take only if you had (a) not completed one or more of the earlier semester exams, (b) scored less well than you had hoped (due to a lack to preparation), or (c) had an earlier "technical failure" (did not run the browser check or turn off pop-up blockers as instructed).

This is the back-up plan. There is no additional, "third-chance" back-up plan to the back-up plan. If you miss the time period for taking the Replacement Exam or if you have a "technical failure" during the Replacement Exam you will receive your pre-final grade as your final class grade. There is no exception; there is no appeal.

You will be able to log on to the online Replacement Exam between 8:00-10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 13 May. Note that you will have 100 minutes to complete the exam after your log in to the exam, which can be as late as 9:59 a.m.

46. "Paper" Option for the Replacement Exam

If you are concerned about a technical failure on the Replacement Exam, you may elect to take this exam "on paper," in room 204A of the College of Music, at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 13 May.

Please notify the instructor no later than 8:00 a.m. on Monday, 4 May if you prefer to take this exam "in person."

My "A" = 57% of 650 Points

47. Order from the à la carte Menu

You may acquire points toward your final grade in any manner that you wish (whichever best fits your academic personality and whichever is most convenient). You get to choose from the à la carte menu.
You can pick and choose from "Column A" (exams) and/or from "Column B" (participation exercises).

All that matters to me—beyond your Sample Test (see number 07) is your final point tally and your attendance.

Note that you have the possibility of acquiring as many as 400 points (an "A") via participation alone, without ever taking a single exam!

I will not respond to any question about your status in the class or about your final grade without receiving an attachment to your e-mail that shows your "Point Tracker" (see the end of this policy letter) with your points tallied and absences noted (see the online gradebook).

Once you prepare your "Point Tracker," you will see that you already have the answer to your question.

### 48. Grades

The instructor does not award your final grade. MUET 3020 grading is set up on autopilot; students receive that final grade that they've earned, based solely on the amount of work completed and points accumulated throughout the semester.

Grades, participation points, and absences are automatically entered into your online gradebook as you progress through the semester.

A "Point Tracker" is available at the end of this file, following the syllabus; print this page and track your points and absences as we move through the semester to ensure that there are no unpleasant surprises.

Conversely, once you reach "370"—at whatever point in the semester—you are done with the class and are guaranteed an "A" with no further work required . . . except that you still may be penalized for absence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Out of a total of 650 possible points for the semester (via unit exams + the participation credit), you will need</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>370</strong> points to receive an &quot;A&quot; (or 57% of the possible points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>330</strong> points for a &quot;B&quot; (= 51%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>290</strong> for a &quot;C&quot; (= 45%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>250</strong> to pass the class with a &quot;D&quot; (= 38%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 49. Fairness

One of the central themes of MUET 3020 is the study of "fair and equitable treatment"—and of how, in many instances, those who cry that they are being treated "unfairly" are, in fact, demanding to be given some special consideration that is not being afforded to others.

Rather than perpetuating the system in which students beg for points to raise their grades to grades that they didn't earn—because this one is on academic probation, because that one will lose a scholarship or eligibility, because some other needs a particular GPA in order to graduate, etc.—all students are treated equally in MUET 3020.
Grades are based on a percentage of the 650 points required for a "perfect" score.

You will see your grades continually updated in your online gradebook; final grades are automatically tabulated by computer immediately following the close of the Replacement Exam. Final grades are then submitted, electronically, to the Office of the Registrar . . . untouched by human hands.

The grade you will receive is the grade that you've earned, and you can be assured that no other student received a "secret exception."

50. D-Day (Monday, 4 May)

At 8:00 a.m. on the Monday of the last week of classes (4 May), attendance records will be up-to-date as of the previous Friday and all of your exam grades and your participation credit will have been entered into the gradebook.

Please note that we will continue to take attendance, in both the face-to-face sections and the Internet sections, throughout the last week of classes.

If you have any question about your participation credit or your attendance, you must resolve the matter with Mr. Patterson through the Blackboard e-mail system prior to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 6 May. Please note that "resolved" does not mean "making the first contact" at 4:59 p.m. on Wednesday, 6 May.

After 5:01 p.m. on Wednesday, 6 May, we can no longer be shifting through sign-in sheets or ticket stubs or dealing with other matters related to "participation."

Be advised that we will discard all of the attendance sheets and ticket stubs, as well as all other materials related to "participation credit," at 5:01 on Wednesday, 6 May; no records will be available for you to dispute and the grade that is in the gradebook will stand the official record.

After 5:01 p.m. on Wednesday, 6 May the gradebook will be set in stone and there will be no changes whatsoever . . . even if it was our error.

As mentioned above, it is your responsibility to check your online gradebook for accuracy.

51. Your Pre-Final Grade (Ignore It . . . for Now)

Note that this pre-final tally might show an "F" in the gradebook until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, 4 May. This is because the system is recording your current number of points toward a cumulative number of points, and all of your points simply may not have been entered until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, 4 May.

Ignore the pre-final tally until Monday, 4 May.

The pre-final tally is based on your the Sample Test (10 points), plus the points accumulated on the four content-unit exams (up to 240 possible, each worth 60 points), plus your participation points (up to 400 possible).

At 8:00 a.m. on Monday, 4 May you will see a column with your correct pre-final tally in your online gradebook (370 points for an "A," 330 points for a "B," etc.)
Please note that the "correct pre-final tally" and the "correct corresponding pre-final letter grade" will still be tempered (= lowered) for excessive absence.

Please be aware that your score on the Replacement Exam will not (ever) change your pre-final number or letter grade in the online gradebook. Nevertheless, if your grade on the Replacement Exam is higher than your combined scores on the Sample Test and the content-unit exams, this grade will be used to tabulate your final grade in the course.

52. Incompletes

A request for an "Incomplete" must be approved, in advance, by the instructor; if you are awarded an Incomplete, it will be with the understanding that you will repeat the course in a face-to-face section in some subsequent semester.

Be advised that an Incomplete will not be awarded simply because the student hasn't been doing the work and is failing the class.

Be advised that, given the nature of the bookstore system, if you fail or take an Incomplete in Spring 2015, you will need to purchase another copy of the (same) textbook and the (same) workbook in order to be uploaded into a subsequent semester's class.

Be advised that missing the Replacement Exam or having a "technical failure" during the Replacement Exam is not cause for an Incomplete; in this case, your final grade will be assigned based on your pre-final tally.

Academic Misconduct

53. Student Behavior in the Physical and Electronic Classroom

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 Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities 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. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr.

Please note that the university has now specifically defined disruptive behavior to include "refusal to comply with faculty or staff," "challenges to authority," and "overt hostility, defiance, or insults on Blackboard and e-mail."

54. Academic Misconduct

Any suspected case of academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the university policy and procedures. Possible academic penalties range from a verbal or written admonition to
a grade of "F" in the course. Further sanctions may apply to incidents involving major violations. You will find the relevant policy and procedures at http://vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm.

My online textbook, lectures, videocasts, class-related e-mails, the message board, and the fair-use playing of music and video examples are all protected by state common law as well as by federal copyright law. You must not give out your username or password—for either the McGraw-Hill website or the Blackboard website, or the videocast site or the message board—to any person. This would allow others unauthorized access to materials under copyright and you may be subject to severe civil and criminal penalties.

**Due to copyright restrictions, audio or video recording of this class is not permitted under any circumstance.**

Whereas you are authorized to take notes—thereby creating a derivative work from my lectures and web content—this authorization extends only to making one set of notes for your own personal use and no other use.

**You are not authorized to copy, forward, and/or make public any content related to this course without prior, written permission from the instructor.**

Academic dishonesty includes all forms of cheating, including the following:

- unauthorized collaboration on the workbook;
- any attempt to circumvent attendance procedures (e.g., signing in for another person in class, at "The $5 Vaudeville," or at the Amon Carter;
- collaborating on an Internet exam or having another person take that exam in your place; and
- plagiarism = rewriting or paraphrasing the notes you see on Amazon.com or in SparkNotes etc. and then submitting these as "your" essay.

**Getting in Touch**

55. **Phone and E-Mail Messages**

Note that many faculty no longer have office telephones. If you call my former office number (940-369-7689), you will be informed that the line is no longer active and be directed to send an e-mail.

Send an e-mail . . . which is the official method of communication at the University of North Texas. This ensures that everyone has a record of what was actually said.

Please be aware that neither I nor the teaching assistants can respond to any e-mail sent to any address other than through the Blackboard e-mail system. You must use the Blackboard e-mail system.

Any e-mail sent to "All Instructors" or "All Teaching Assistants" will be automatically deleted.

Please write to the person who can actually answer your question. Mailing to the particular teaching assistant responsible for a particular area will generate a faster response than mailing
to "all of us"—which would either generate multiple responses or *no* response whatsoever (because we'd all be assuming that someone else had already responded).

56. E-Mail Conduct = "Curmudgeon Alert!"

I'm old.

When I began teaching at UNT (28 years ago, long before you were born), faculty were issued a typewriter and a box of ribbons; e-mail would not be available on campus for another 7 years; DVDs would not be invented for another 8 years.

I don't IM or text or tweet or Facebook. I don't own an iPhone or an iPod or an iPad. I drive a stick shift and I still write with a fountain pen.

For people like me (and your future employer), "communication" is not pecking away on a miniature keyboard to post a message on Facebook.

"Communication" is not "texting" with your BFF LMNOP."

"Communication" is not thumbing-up acronymic code and making XQZ about why you can't take the time to write in English.

E-mails that that contain misspellings, phonetic spellings, EXCESSIVE CAPS, no caps, no punctuation, 3rd-grade grammar, run-on (and on and on) sentences, Internet acronyms and abbreviations, bad manners, etc. will be returned for resubmission.

Pretend I'm your future employer, who will expect the same.

57. Who Does What?

If you have a question, please contact the appropriate teaching assistant through the Blackboard e-mail system. Better yet, read the course policy and the syllabus and read your e-mails, because you already have the answer.

All e-mails will be answered within 48 hours, but please give the teaching assistant the full 48 hours before you write to the instructor to say that you can't get a response.

If you do not receive a satisfactory resolution after discussing the matter with the appropriate teaching assistant, please forward all relevant e-mails to the instructor.

(continues below)
Problems Accessing the Videocasts  Mr. Devin Iler
Coordination of Auditions for "The $5 Vaudeville"

Sections 001 & 002  Mr. Lance Russell

- Sign-In Attendance Sheets
- Leaving Class Early
- University-Excused Absences

Sections 200 & 300

- Internet Attendance

Posting of Absences (all sections)

Departmental Progress Reports  Mr. Jason Patterson
- Posting Book Purchase Confirmations into the Gradebook
- Post-Exam Reviews

Coordination of Event Ticket Sales
- Posting Credit for Event Attendance
- Posting Credit for Message Board
- Posting Credit for Essay Grading (and attending the Amon Carter)

Collection of Freedom from Speech Essays  Mr. Jakob Schwarz
- Collection of Book Essays
- Collection of Amon Carter Essays

Everything Else  Dr. Thomas Sovík

Course Instructor

Email: Use the Blackboard e-mail system
Office: Room 204(A), College of Music
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 8:30-8:45 & 11:00-12:15
Other times by appointment
PART THREE: WHEN WE'RE GOING TO GET THERE

All dates are tentative; actual test dates will be announced in class / in the videocasts

21 January  Watch the video at sovik.music.unt.edu
Topic: Welcome Aboard

23  Watch the video at sovik.music.unt.edu
Topic: Goals, Policy, & Syllabus

26  Watch the video at sovik.music.unt.edu
Topic: Participation Credit

28  UNIT ONE: Minstrelsy through Tin Pan Alley
Movie Clips: Fast Times at Ridgemont High; Idiocracy

30  Movie Clips: Caveman; Dude, Where’s My Car?; In & Out
Book essay requests must be received by 5:00 p.m.

02 February  Sample Test must be completed and your course materials purchased AND REGISTERED by 5:00 p.m. or you will be dropped from the class with the grade of WF on Tuesday, 3 February

04  Movie Clip: Zip Coon

06

09  Movie Clip: American Dances

11  Movie Clip: The Jazz Singer

13  "My Funny Valentine" Costume Parade and Walk-Off

16  Movie Clip: Monsters of Megaphone

18  Movie Clip: Young Frankenstein

20  Movie Clip: Chicago
American History Exam posted 11:00 a.m.

23  American History Exam over 11:59 p.m.

25

27  Movie Clips: Singin’ in the Rain; White Christmas
Message Board closes at 5:00 p.m.
Freedom from Speech essays must be received by 5:00 p.m.
Book essays must be received by 5:00 p.m.

UNIT TWO: Rural & Electric Blues
Last day to drop with a W before being dropped with the grade of WF if failing to complete your Sample Test (perfect score of 10) or purchase AND REGISTER your class materials

02 March

TPA Exam posted 11:00 a.m.
Amon Carter essays must be received by 5:00 p.m.

(07 Saturday)
Auditions for "The $5 Vaudeville" Talent Show; 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. room 232 COM

09

TPA Exam over 11:59 p.m.

11

13

16
(No Class—SPRING BREAK)

18
(No Class—SPRING BREAK)

20
(No Class—SPRING BREAK)

23
Movie Clip: Blues Brothers 2000

25
Sovík with Škampa Quartet —Movie Day: That's Entertainment

27
Sovík with Škampa Quartet — Movie Day: The Best of Ed Sullivan
Amon Carter notifications will be sent by 5:00 p.m.

30
Sovík with Škampa Quartet — Movie Day: A Prairie Home Companion

01 April
Movie Clip: St. Louis Blues
Tickets on sale for "The $5 Vaudeville"

03
Movie Clips: Elf; Jungle Book
Blues Exam posted 11:00 a.m.

UNIT THREE: Rural & Electric Country
Blues Exam over 11:59 p.m.

06

08

10

(12 Sunday)
Dress Rehearsal for "The $5 Vaudeville," 2:00-6:00 in the Main Auditorium

13
14 Tuesday  Dress Rehearsal for "The $5 Vaudeville," 7:00-9:00 in 115 Music Annex

15  (No Class—UNT Talent Show)
    Dress Rehearsal for "The $5 Vaudeville," 5:00-6:30 in the Main Auditorium
    "The $5 Vaudeville"; 7:00-10:00 p.m. at the Main Auditorium, UNT Campus

17  (No Class—UNT Talent Show Recovery Day)

(18 Saturday)  Field trip to Amon Carter Museum in FW; 1:30-5:00 p.m.

20  Movie Clip:  *Oh Brother Where Art Thou?*

22  Movie Clip:  *Blues Brothers*

24  Country Exam posted 11:00 a.m.

27  **UNIT FOUR: Rhythm & Blues to Rock & Roll**
    Movie Clips:  *A League of Their Own*;  *Mona Lisa Smile*
    Country Exam over 11:59 p.m.

29

01 May

04  Movie Clips: selections from  *Cyndi Lauper* and  *Weird Al Yankovic*
    D-Day; all points for exams and participation entered into gradebook

06  Movie Day:  *Rock & Roll; the Early Days*
    No post-exam reviews after 12:00 noon
    No changes to gradebook after 5:00 p.m.

08  (No Class—Reading Day)

1  Not all movies or video clips will be shown in Spring 2015.

Log-in to the optional, online Replacement Exam will be available
► **8:00-10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 13 May** ◄

You will have 100 minutes to complete the exam after your log in, which can be even as late as
9:59 a.m. . . . but not one minute later.
PART FOUR: POINT TRACKER

My Exam Points

* Sample Test (10) ________________ (Completion is Mandatory)
* American History Exam (60) ______________
* Tin Pan Alley Exam (60) ______________
* Blues Exam (60) ______________
* Country Exam (60) ______________ *total points scored on the Sample Test and on the content-unit exams may be replaced
(or) Replacement Exam (240) ______________ by the total points scored on the Replacement Exam

My Participation Points

"Freedom from Speech" (50) ______________
"My Funny Valentine" (50) ______________ (50 points or removal of 3 absences)
Message Board (50) ______________
Essay (200) ______________
(or)
Show Participation (200) ______________
(or)
Show Attendance/PPV (200) ______________ (= 50 + 30 + 30 + 30 + 30 + 30)
Amon Carter Museum (50) ______________ (50 points or removal of 3 absences)

TOTAL ______________

Out of a total of 650 possible points for the semester (via unit exams + the participation credit), you will need

- 370 points to receive an "A"
- 330 points for a "B"
- 290 for a "C"
- 250 to pass the class with a "D"

(minus) My online gradebook indicates __ absences.

In the face-to-face sections three class absences (i.e., three 50-minute periods) may be taken without penalty; a 4th absence automatically lowers the final grade by one letter; a 5th absence automatically lowers the final grade by an additional letter. You fail at the 6th absence regardless of your point standing in the class or your score on the Replacement Exam. (Remember that, in the Internet sections, absences begin at "4" absences.)