



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SAN ANTONIO

Course: MUSI 1306.006 Term: Fall 2026 Instructor: Prof. Sarek Gutierrez (He/Him) Meeting Days: Mondays & Wednesdays Meeting Room: TBD Meeting Time: 11:00am-12:15pm Credit Hours: 3 CRN: 11003	Language, Literature, and Arts Department Email: sgutierrez@tamusa.edu All appointments are met via Zoom. Virtual Office Hours: By Appointment.
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Welcome

Hello, Jaguars!

Welcome to MUSI 1306: Music Appreciation. I am thrilled to have you in my music class! Below, you will find important information regarding the course.

Virtual Office Hours

Since I do not have a physical office space on campus, any office hour meetings will need to be met by appointment over Zoom or after class (time and instructor availability permitting). Student TAMUSA credentials can be used to log into student Zoom accounts. Use this link provided by the university to log in: <https://tamusa.zoom.us>

Preferred Communication

As the instructor for this course, my preferred method of communication is through Blackboard email. Students may also alternatively contact me through university email using the Microsoft Outlook app. Students are required to use official TAMUSA email Ex: sgutierrez@tamusa.edu.

I answer emails during the working hours of (9am – 5pm) Monday – Friday. Allow me 48 hours (2 business days) to respond to your email. If I don't respond by then, please send a follow up email. There are times during the semester where I get a high volume of emails, but I typically respond within the same day.

Dual Credit

High school students enrolled in Dual-Credit courses at TAMUSA need to have proactive communication with their assigned liaison. Dual-Credit students will be required to have

meetings with their liaison if attendance or class performance become an issue. If issues persist, student will be put on a probation period and will risk being dropped from the course.

Catalog Description

A general survey of music literature designed for the non-music major. Representative composers and their works are studied through recordings, lectures, reports, and live performances. The course focuses on the appreciation and analysis of musical compositions and performances, synthesis and interpretation of artistic expression and critical, creative and innovative communication about works of art. This course meets the standards for the Creative Arts category of courses under the core curriculum.

Student Learning Outcomes

The goals of this course are as follows:

- Identify and discuss the complexities of music from various cultures and eras of time.
- List and define the elements of music (Ex: pitch, rhythm, dynamics, tempo, etc.)
- Develop aural skills in recognizing composers and their nationalities, genres, historical periods and dates, & definitive features of selected musical examples.
- Develop writing, research, creativity, and communication skills that can be useful in other coursework.

Required Materials

TAMUSA students now have the required E-book combo included in their tuition payment. Therefore, no out of pocket purchases are necessary for this course! ☺

(Connect access required). ISBN: 9781265939168

- *World Music: Traditions and Transformations* (Bakan, Senungetuk, Shonekan).
- *Music: An Appreciation* (Kamien).
- *America's Musical Landscape* (Ferris).

Also required:

- Consistent access to a computer/laptop. (TAMUSA library has rentals).
- Reliable internet connection for Blackboard assignments.
- Access to a screen recording app such as Zoom/Canva/Apple Screen Share etc. (for recording final presentation).
- A method of note taking (notebook, laptop, etc.)
- An open mind to learning about ALL types of music! ☺

Course Breakdown

30% Connect Reading Assignments

- Weekly E-book reading assignments and graded comprehension questions through CONNECT online.

30% Listening Journals

- Weekly listening journal writing assignments exploring new music topics and/or cultures.

20% Attendance, Participation, and Preparation

- Attendance and active participation in music activities and discussions.

20% Final Exam

- Music Research Presentation Video
- Peer to Peer Comments/Questions

Total= 100%

Texas A&M University - San Antonio

GRADING SCALE:

A: 90%-100%

B: 80%-89%

C: 70%-79%

D: 60%-69%

F: Below 60%

Grading Descriptions

Connect Reading Assignments:

Students have access to all three textbooks as e-books through the Connect platform. Reading assignments (which can also be heard in audiobook form) will be given each week for students to complete on their own time for each week. Reading assignments will be accompanied by comprehension questions which will be factored into the reading assignment grade.

Video Lectures & Online Music Activities Listening Journals:

Each week, the instructor will cover a new music topic and have students complete various tasks such as briefly summarizing information, answering specific questions asked in the lecture or provided media, and completing a listening journal related to the content for that week. Responses should be within (2-3) complete paragraphs in length, but more importantly thoroughly answer all prompted questions. This is a course that relies heavily on the synthesis of information, critical thinking, and discussion.

Mid-Term: Although there is no exam administered for the mid-term, the mid-term grade is a snapshot of the student's current grade average at the 8-week mark during the semester. The mid-

term grade is NOT an official posted grade on your transcript; it is there to let students and admin know current standings mid-way through the semester.

Texas A&M University SA - LLA Core 50 Objectives

- **Critical Thinking Skills (CT)** - creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- **Communication Skills (COM)** - effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
- **Social Responsibility (SR)** - intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
- **Teamwork (TW)** - ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.

FINAL EXAM INSTRUCTIONS

For the MUSI 1306: Music Appreciation FINAL EXAM, students will create a research presentation video focusing on **only one** of the following topic selections.

1. A formal composer.
 - Ex: *Stephen Schwartz and the Music from Wicked*
2. A world music artist or group.
 - Ex: *Fela Kuti and his Impact on African Music*
3. A featured world instrument.
 - Ex: *Caribbean Steel Pan: The Music of Trinidad and Tobago*

These are just examples of presentation topics that have been done in the past. Do not be limited to these examples. Additional examples can be seen at the end of this syllabus.

For the presentation video, students should use tools such as PowerPoint, Canva, Spotify, YouTube, etc. Then utilizing screen share apps such as Apple screen share, Zoom, Loom, etc. to record the presentation. Allow yourself plenty of time to complete this and edit as necessary. Students are encouraged to use the computers located in the library on campus, if needed.

RUBRIC

Number	Detail	Points
1	Proper selection of topic (composer, performer(s), or instrument). This means having the topic approved by the instructor prior to submission.	10
2	During the presentation, a discussion of at least (3) musical selections following the assigned prompt instructions. This includes allowing the audience to listen to excerpts of mentioned selections.	30
3	Successful display of Core 50 objectives: critical thinking skills, communication skills, social responsibility, and teamwork.	30

Number	Detail	Points
4	Approx.10-15 minutes of presenting. Aim for 10 slides (approx.). Attire: dress appropriately, no workout clothes, PJs, etc.	10
5	Use of at least (3) academic sources that are correctly cited (APA, MLA, or Chicago). Consult the TAMUSA Citation Style Guide for tips on citing/formatting. Link is included on Blackboard. Include proper citations on last slide.	10
6	Reply with comments/questions on at least (3) other presentations	10
	Total	100%

Academic Sources

On campus, the university library is the best place to start looking for sources for any academic subject. Academic sources are scholarly books, articles, and research papers that are typically peer-reviewed, credible and authoritative. Peer-reviewed sources are written by an expert in the field and have passed review by other experts who judged the source for quality and accuracy. If a source is peer-reviewed, there's a really good chance it's a good choice for high-quality, accurate information. **For these assignments, please avoid using websites like Britannica, Wikipedia, IMDb, etc.**

Below I will list Zoom screen share instructions for those unfamiliar. Your TAMUSA credentials should allow you to access Zoom for screen share recording. The screen share recording of your presentation can be through any app, it doesn't have to be through Zoom. Keep in mind where you are saving your finished meeting video on your computer before starting to record.

1. Open Zoom App.
2. Start new meeting.
3. Select "Share" icon at bottom of screen (In Green).
4. **Then click the small box for "Share Sound".**
5. Then click "Share" (in Blue).
6. Click the "More" Icon (...)
7. Select "Record" It's recommended to "Record to this computer".
8. When finished recording, END meeting.
9. Locate Zoom. mp4 video file.
10. Upload video file to YouTube as unlisted (recommended).
11. When you are ready to submit on Blackboard, go to the Final Exam discussion board and click "post a response to the discussion". In the upper toolbar, click the (+) (add content) tab on the upper right corner, then click embed media. You then should copy/paste the URL for your unlisted video, and it should appear for us to see.

Doing this will allow others to conveniently view your video from Blackboard without having to be sent to YouTube. Other screen share alternatives include apple screen recording tools,

QuickTime, Loom, etc. It is recommended to test that your audio sharing works before recording your full presentation.

Late Work

- * Each week's assignments will be open every Monday @ 12:00am and close Sunday @ 11:59pm which gives students a full 7 days to complete each week's assignments.
- * Late work will be accepted for a max grade of 70%.
- * The last day to submit assignments will be posted at the end of the course calendar. Submissions of any kind after this date/time will **not** be accepted. Students that have proper documentation through the university may request extensions.

Broader Use of Generative AI Permitted Within Guidelines

Use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including ChatGPT is permitted in this course for students who wish to use them on the ground of initial research. Students should not use AI tools to complete listening journals or Connect reading assignments. To adhere to our scholarly values, students may however, cite AI generated material that informed their Final Exam presentation research work. This includes intake, citations, and or use of quotations and in your reference list. Using an AI to generate content without proper attribution qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M, San Antonio standard of academic integrity.

Course Calendar

Week	Lectures/Assignments
Week 1 8/24, 8/26	CLASSES START MONDAY, 8/24 Lectures: • (Mon.) Introduction, Blackboard, McGraw Hill Connect, & Syllabus. • Activity: Is This Music? • (Wed.) The Science Behind the Sound Homework: • Complete the "My Favorite Song" icebreaker on Blackboard discussion board. • Log into Connect to read <i>World Music: Traditions and Transformations</i>, Ch.1-2. • Complete listening journal #1 assignment.
Week 2 8/31, 9/2	Lectures: • Elements of Music I • Elements of Music II Homework: • Log into Connect to read <i>Music: An Appreciation</i> Ch. 1-5. • Complete listening journal #2 assignment.

Week	Lectures/Assignments
Week 3 9/9	Lectures: • NO CLASS MONDAY: LABOR DAY • (Wed.) Elements of Music III Homework: • Log into Connect to read <i>Music: An Appreciation</i> Ch. 6-11. • Complete listening journal #3 assignment.
Week 4 9/14, 9/16	Lecture: • The Human Voice: Vocal Art Music for Solo & Ensemble • Early European Music: Medieval Homework: • Log into Connect to read <i>Music: An Appreciation</i>, part II-III. • Complete listening journal #4 assignment.
Week 5 9/21, 9/23	Lecture: • Early European Music: Renaissance • Early European Music: Baroque Homework: • Log into Connect to read <i>Music: An Appreciation</i>, part IV-V. • Complete listening journal #5 assignment.
Week 6 9/28, 9/30	Lecture: • Early European Music: Classical & Opera • Early European Music: Romantic Piano & Orchestral Works Homework: • Log into Connect to read <i>Music: An Appreciation</i>, part VI. • Complete listening journal #6 assignment.
Week 7 10/5, 10/7	Lecture: • 20th Century Music: American Composers, Atonality, Serialism, Graphic Notation, and Minimalism. • Percussion Music Homework: • Log into Connect to read <i>Music: An Appreciation</i>, parts VII. • Complete listening journal #7 assignment.

Week	Lectures/Assignments
Week 8 10/12, 10/14	Lecture: • Music in Early America: Musicals on Broadway • Jazz History I: 1900 - 1950 - New Orleans, LA. Homework: • Log into Connect to read <i>America's Musical Landscape</i>, Ch. 9 & 18. • Complete listening journal #8 assignment.
Week 9 10/19, 10/21	Lecture: • Jazz History II: 1950s – Modern Day Jazz • Rock History: 1950s – Modern Day Rock Homework: • Log into Connect to read <i>America's Musical Landscape</i>, Ch. 13, 15 & 16. • Complete listening journal #9 assignment.
Week 10 10/26, 10/28	Lecture: • Music in Early America: Country Music • Music for Film Homework: • Log into Connect to read <i>America's Musical Landscape</i>, Ch. 11, 14 & 19. • Complete listening journal #10 assignment.
Week 11 11/2, 11/4	Lecture: • Music of Africa • Music of Brazil Homework: • Log into Connect to read <i>World Music: Traditions and Transformations</i>, Ch. 10-11. • Complete listening journal #11 assignment.
Week 12 11/9, 11/11	Lecture: • Music of the Caribbean • Music of Latin America Homework: • Log into Connect to read <i>World Music: Traditions and Transformations</i>, Ch.12. • Complete listening journal #12 assignment.

Week	Lectures/Assignments
Week 13 11/16, 11/18	Lecture: • Music of India • Music of Southeast Asia. Homework: • Log into Connect to read <i>World Music: Traditions and Transformations</i>, Ch. 7 & 8. • Complete listening journal #13 assignment.
Week 14 11/23	Lecture: • Music of North Africa/the Middle East • Deadline for Final Presentation Topic Selection. Homework: • Log into Connect to read <i>World Music: Traditions and Transformations</i>, Ch. 14. • Complete listening journal #14 assignment.
Week 15 11/30, 12/2	LAST DAY OF CLASSES IS WEDNESDAY, DEC. 2, 2026. Lecture: • Music of China and Japan • In-class final presentation peer review activity. Homework: • Prepare presentation for peer review session. • Log into Connect to read <i>World Music: Traditions and Transformations</i>, Ch. 14. • Complete listening journal #15 assignment.
FINAL EXAM	Final Presentation Videos & Peer Comments Due by 12/11/2026 @ 11:59pm. Late work accepted until 12/11/2026 @ 11:59pm which is the official end of term.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

University Email Policy and Course Communications: All correspondence between professors and students must occur via university email accounts. You must have your Jaguar

email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at helpdesk@tamusa.edu or at 210-784-HELP (4357). If you don't hear back within 48 hours, contact them again. They have many requests during the first part of the semester, so you may need to follow up with them.

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us at the [website](#) or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. All students are encouraged to discuss their academic accommodation with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202. Online tutoring is also available for after hours and weekend assistance.

While tutoring hours may change based on tutor schedules and availability, the current tutoring hours for MATH in the ALC are as follows:

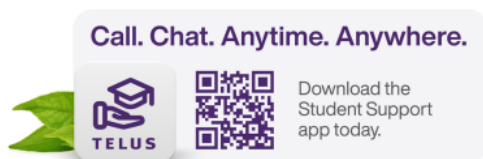
Appointments available MATH Walk in Tutoring – No appointment needed

	Appointments available	Walk in Tutoring – No appointment needed
MONDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
TUESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
WEDNESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
THURSDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
FRIDAY	8 am – 5 pm	11 am – 4 pm

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, visit our website, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. *Crisis support is available 24/7/365 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 or through the TELUS student support App.*

The TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including 24/7/365 support for in the moment distress, crisis support, an anonymous peer-to-peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.



Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>. More information on emergency response may be found at: [Emergency Operations Plan](#) and the [Emergency Action Plan](#). Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended by the published Census Date (the first week of class). Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend prior to the published Census Date (the first week of class) will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Jaguar Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center (WLDCC): The WLDCC provides support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. The WLDCC offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. Students can schedule appointments with the WLDCC in JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on "Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center" to make your appointment. Students wanting to work in realtime with a tutor can schedule an "Online Appointment." Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback from a tutor can schedule an "eTutoring" appointment. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our [website](#) . The WLDCC can also be reached by emailing wldcc@tamusa.edu.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a [CARE report](#) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources. A food pantry is available on campus; click [here](#) for hours and contact information.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots' Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the wide variety of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual on our campus and within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees are to be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the University's Civil Rights Officer at 210-784-2061 or titleix@tamusa.edu.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking based on sex, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related sex-based misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB

439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Young Jaguars can support parenting students with daycare if students meet this criteria: (1) must be enrolled in classes at Texas A&M-San Antonio in the current semester, (2) must be Pell eligible or a single parent, (3) child(ren) must be aged 3 to 12-years-old, and (4) child(ren) must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. Hours of operation is Monday-Thursday 3:30pm-9:00pm. For more information, please contact Young Jaguars at youngjaguars@tamusa.edu or call (210) 784-2636.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, [Student Code of Conduct](#), on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the [Student Code of Conduct](#) or visit the resources available in the [OSRR website](#)

Important Fall 2026 Dates:

Dates	Event
August 20	Tuition & Fee Payments deadline
August 24	First day of class

September 7	Labor Day Holiday – No Classes / University Closed
September 9	Census Date – Students not paid in full or enrolled in a payment plan by 4:59 pm may be dropped for non-payment
October 5 – October 16	Midterm grading period
November 13	Last day to drop with an automatic “W”
November 25	Study Day – No classes
November 26-November 28	Thanksgiving Holiday – No Classes / University Closed
November 30	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University
December 4	Last day of classes
December 5 – December 11	Final exams
December 15	Commencement

The complete [academic calendar](#) is available online

Final Presentation Topic Selection Examples

Below is a list of examples students may choose if they are having difficulty finding an appropriate topic for the final presentation.

Jazz Musicians	World Music	Country & Rock Icons
Louis Armstrong	Celia Cruz	Johnny Cash
Ella Fitzgerald	Tito Puente	Dolly Parton
Duke Ellington	Gloria Estefan	Willie Nelson
Miles Davis	Juan Gabriel	George Strait
Billie Holiday	Selena	Loretta Lynn
Charlie Parker	Marc Anthony	Garth Brooks
Sarah Vaughan	Shakira	Patsy Cline
John Coltrane	Ricky Martin	Hank Williams
Nina Simone	Luis Miguel	Reba McEntire
Thelonious Monk	Carlos Santana	Merle Haggard
Count Basie	Vicente Fernández	Elvis Presley
Dizzy Gillespie	Bad Bunny	Chuck Berry
Herbie Hancock	Daddy Yankee	Little Richard
Chet Baker	Romeo Santos	Buddy Holly
Stan Getz	José José	Jerry Lee Lewis
Diana Krall	Julio Iglesias	Fats Domino
Wynton Marsalis	Polka	Carl Perkins
Esperanza Spalding	Salsa	Roy Orbison
Art Blakey	China	Gene Vincent
Dave Brubeck	Japan	Eddie Cochran
Pat Metheny	India	Bill Haley
Wayne Shorter	Argentina	Bo Diddley
Chick Corea	Spain	Ritchie Valens
Norah Jones	Germany	Billy Strings
Cassandra Wilson	France	Stevie Ray Vaughn