

21M.295 Exam 1 Guide (Fall 2014)

The first exam will cover Starr and Waterman Chapters 1-7; that is, the reading and listening assignments from Sessions 1-10. It will consist of 3 sections: Terms, Listening, and Short Answer. No notes may be used during the test.

TERMS. You will be asked to choose from a list of terms. Please provide a coherent description and example from our assigned listening if the term is directly related to a work or style. For example, “strophic” requires an example, whereas “arrangement” does not need one. I will choose from the list of Key Terms at the end of each chapter in our text (pp. 43, 68, 104, 124, 154, 193, 239). Remember, there is a glossary at the end of the text! (3 points each)

LISTENING. You may be asked to identify the assigned listening by composer, performer, title, genre, and style. There may be follow-up questions that ask you to discuss musical features of the work (form, instrumentation, melody, etc.) and cultural context. There will be selections of “unknown listening” (works not on the assigned listening) in which you will identify the general style or genre and support your choice by discussing the musical features of the piece. In the case of unknown listening, excerpts played will be 1 – 3 minutes in length. For assigned listening, excerpts will be 30 – 60 seconds. (8 points each)

SHORT ANSWER. I will choose from the questions below. You do not need to write in full sentences, sometimes an outline or bullet-point list is a more efficient method to organize your answer. If you are more comfortable writing in an essay format, that is OK too. (6 points each)

1. The year is 2214 and you are writing a new text on American popular music. For the period 1850-1950, your editor has limited you to 5 pieces. Using the examples from our assigned listening, list your 5 examples and justify your choices musically.
2. The authors of our text discuss American popular music in terms of five “themes” and three “streams.” Name and describe musically, then discuss how these three streams relate and intersect with the themes of Music and Identity, Music and Technology, and Centers and Peripheries.
3. Composers and performers. Be prepared to discuss the contributions of at least one composer and/or performer from our assigned listening in each of the following categories: Tin Pan Alley, Latin, Folk, Jazz, Ragtime, Hillbilly/Country, Swing. In as much detail as possible, include how this person contributed to or changed the direction of music in that genre.
4. Popular music is often associated with common cultural experiences. For each of the following, discuss the relationship between the event and music associated with that event: Plessy v. Ferguson & “Jim Crow” laws, The Great Depression, The Civil War and Post-war Era, Prohibition, WWI, WWII, Southern migration north.

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