

## Inquiry into Roots Music and Culture

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In this course, students will develop a set of rhetorical reading and writing skills, including a variety of research methods, the focus of which will be an inquiry of the role music plays in society. The course materials will focus on American roots music and the cultures out of which it has grown, including the genres of blues, folk, Appalachian, and jazz music. The class will offer a number of transferable skills, since the issues presented through the study of music and culture mirror the concerns of other disciplines such as sociology, political science, gender studies, economics, visual arts, and literature. A wide range of texts will be used for this class, which may include novels, short fiction, poetry, plays, essays on the cultural significance of music, magazine articles, fictional and non-fictional films, albums by individual or various artists, personal interviews, concert attendance, and documents from the UT Special Collections Library.