Minor in Alternative Styles of Music

This minor is being proposed to meet the needs of our students who frequently come in to the Music Department with a background in alternative styles (jazz, mariachi, rock ’n’ roll, etc.), and are seeking to pursue a career in a field other than western classical music. The minor essentially requires students to take six units of music history courses that are pertinent to alternative styles, students need to do eight units of “applied” instrument, composing/arranging, and/or technology studies, they have a three unit alternative styles ensemble requirement, and then the music business class “The Artist Entrepreneur’s Toolkit” and the Alternative Styles Capstone, which will require them to prepare a final project performance, based on what they have learned and assimilated as performers throughout the coursework for this minor. The goal is to help students become well-rounded in the history, construction, and performance practice associated with alternative styles, and then to be able to couple this knowledge with a music business class and a capstone project that will prepare our students for a career in the “real world” industry of alternative/popular styles of music.

Requirements for a minor in Alternative Styles in Music (21 units)

Pre-requisite requirements: (0)

MUS 1100 Fundamentals of Music Theory
MUS 1110 Basic Musicianship
MUS 2120 Theory I
MUS 2125 Musicianship I

6 units chosen from: (6)

MUS 2350 Popular Music Literature
MUS 3309 Jazz History in America and African-American Culture
MUS 3500 Global Music
MUS 3510 Latin American Music
MUS 3520 African American Music
CAL 1804 Rock and Roll: Justice and Society
MUS 3610 Music in the United States

8 units chosen from: (8)

MUS 2050 Class Guitar
MUS 2200 Class Piano I
MUS 2210 Class Piano II
MUS 2220 Class Piano III
MUS 2224 Popular/Commercial Class Piano
MUS 2600 Commercial Songwriting
MUS 2660 Electronic Music Production
MUS 2670 Sound Recording
MUS 3300 Jazz Improvisation
MUS 4140 Commercial Arranging and Scoring
MUS 4170 Composition for Films and Television
MUS 4290 Topics in Music Technology
MUS 4660 Advanced Electronic Music
MUS 4670 Advanced Studio Recording Techniques

3 units chosen from: (3)

MUS 3827 Chamber Music: Jazz Combo
MUS 3828 Chamber Music: World Music
MUS 3834 Coyote Mariachi Ensemble
MUS 3910 Jazz Ensemble
MUS 3920 Vocal Jazz
MUS 3960 Reverence Singers

Required courses: (4)

CAL 4100 The Artist Entrepreneur’s Toolkit
MUS 3835 Alternative Styles Capstone

Total Units 21

In addition to the grade point average requirements stated in Program Requirements for a Bachelor’s Degree, students must earn a grade of “C” (2.0) or better in all courses required to fulfill the Minor in Alternative Styles of Music.