This course surveys popular music and entertainment within the broad context of American social, cultural and political history from the 17th to the 20th century. We study musical expression as an outcome of continuing cultural exchanges between the many peoples who settled the United States, principally, the Afro-Americans and European-Americans who shared musical and other cultural expressions with each other. Among the musical genres that we will cover are: spirituals, folk song, minstrel shows, jazz, Hollywood musicals, blues, rock and roll, rock, and punk. Racial and class politics, business and technological environments and youth cultures are considered as significant contributors to the history of American musical production.