

# Z385 - HISTORY OF THE BLUES

- Required Textbooks: 1. Nothing But The Blues: The Music and the Musicians by Lawrence Cohn  
2. The Big Book of Blues: A Biographical Encyclopedia by Robert Santelli  
3. COURSE MAXI-PACKET (available at Mr. Copy – 501 E. 10<sup>th</sup> St.)

## WEEK 1

- Tuesday Introduction  
Read: Nothing But the Blues, Chapter 1  
Thursday Classic Blues Women  
Read: Nothing But the Blues, Chapter 3

## WEEK 2

- Tuesday Classic Blues Women continued, Country Blues: Texas  
Read: Nothing But the Blues, Chapter 2  
Thursday Country Blues: Mississippi

## WEEK 3

- Tuesday Country Blues: Mississippi continued  
Thursday Country Blues: Mississippi continued, Memphis

## WEEK 4

- Tuesday Country Blues: Jug Bands, Harmonica Players, St. Louis  
Thursday **EXAM #1**

## WEEK 5

- Tuesday Piedmont Blues  
Read: Nothing But the Blues, Chapter 6  
Thursday Piedmont Blues continued, Piano Blues

## WEEK 6

- Tuesday Piano Blues continued, Boogie Woogie  
Thursday Country Blues 1935-42  
Read: Nothing But the Blues, Chapter 8 pp. 265-287

## WEEK 7

- Tuesday Country Blues 1935-42 continued, Holy Blues  
Read: Nothing But the Blues, Chapter 4  
Thursday Holy Blues continued, White Blues  
Read: Nothing But the Blues, Chapter 7

## WEEK 8

- Tuesday **EXAM #2**  
Thursday City Blues  
Read: Nothing But the Blues, Chapter 5 pp. 151-179

## WEEK 9

- Tuesday City Blues continued, Rhythm & Blues  
Read: Nothing But the Blues, Chapter 9

Thursday Rhythm & Blues continued

WEEK 10

Tuesday Post-War Country Blues, Chess Records  
Read: Nothing But the Blues, Chapter 5 pp. 179 - 203  
Thursday Chess Records continued

WEEK 11

Tuesday Sun Records, Post-War Chicago  
Thursday Post-War Chicago continued

WEEK 12

Tuesday **EXAM #3 Exam will cover CDs #9 - #12**  
Thursday Urban Blues

WEEK 13

Tuesday Urban Blues continued, Swamp Blues  
Thursday Field Trips 1955-60, British Blues  
Read: Nothing But the Blues, Chapter 8 pp. 288-311, Chapter 10

WEEK 14

Tuesday British Blues continued  
Thursday 1960s Chicago & Beyond  
Read: Nothing But the Blues, Chapter 11

WEEK 15

Tuesday 1960s Chicago & Beyond continued, 1970s & Beyond  
Thursday 1970s & Beyond continued

WEEK 16

Tuesday Tuesday 7:15 – 9:15 **EXAM #4 Exam will cover CDs #13 - #16**

**EXAMS** - Each of the four exams is worth 50 points. All tests follow the same format: 30 points of short answer and essay questions taken from the lectures & reading assignments followed by 20 points of listening/music identification. For the 20 points in the listening section of each exam, you will hear 20 excerpts (45 seconds to a minute long) from the songs covered and be expected to identify the artist for each.

**GRADING SCALE** – Grades are assigned based upon the total number of points that you earn for the semester divided by the 200 total points possible.

A+ = 98% (196-200)	A = 92% (184-195)	A- = 90% (180-183)
B+ = 88% (176-179)	B = 82% (164-175)	B- = 80% (160-163)
C+ = 78% (156-159)	C = 72% (144-155)	C- = 70% (140-143)
D+ = 68% (136-139)	D = 62% (124-135)	D- = 60% (120-123)
F = (119 points and below)		