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THE SOUND OF BLACKNESS: THE ORIGINS, DEVELOPMENT, AND IMPACT OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSIC

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The Sound of Blackness: The Origins, Development, and Impact of African American Music

Synopsis:

This project seeks to explore the origins, development, and impact of the five major genres of African American music (Gospel, Blues, Jazz, Rhythm & Blues, and Rap/Hip Hop) from the 1950s to the present in the field of Black Studies from a distance education perspective.

The Sound of Blackness: The Origins, Development, and Impact of African American Music

Music has been a major influence on the construction of African American culture since the first person of African descent arrived in the Western Hemisphere during the discovery period. During their journey to the Americas persons of color performed music and built instruments that they brought with them from their homeland in West and Central Africa. This activity operated as a unifying intellectual and emotional vehicle where the body and mind were inseparable as well as where the sacred and secular world was understood as a whole. Music also served as a world that integrated function and meaning for all of those who would listen. This project seeks to explore the origins, development, and impact of the five major genres of African American music (Gospel, Blues, Jazz, Rhythm & Blues, and Rap/Hip Hop) from the 1950s to the present in the field of Black Studies from a distance education perspective.