

TO: Faculty Senate Executive Committee  
FROM: Dr. Keller Coker (Music Department)  
RE: Summary of MUP American Vernacular Studies proposal

The proposed MUP 170, 270, 370, 470, and 670 create an MUP number for students privately studying American Vernacular styles. Roughly 10% of the department are currently studying this repertoire, but there is no class number to accommodate them.

**Course Goal and Objectives:**

To improve performing and composing skills in styles of music popular since 1850 in North and South America that lay outside the Western European Art Music tradition. Musics include jazz, samba, rhythm and blues, choro, and many others. At the end of a term of study the student will more proficiently perform and write pieces in one or more American Vernacular Music genres.

**Justification for adding the course (e.g. alignment with other institutions, program revision, etc.):**

The designation "American Vernacular Music" is similar to, but wider than, the term "Jazz Studies" used by many institutions for students studying music outside of the "Classical Music" or "Western European Art Music" tradition. This is a very common course of study at WOU and at many institutions both inside and outside the United States. Many students at WOU currently study American Vernacular Music in their Performance Studies, but this work is not accurately reflected in their transcript because there is no current course number for them to use.