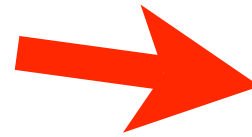


AMST 80F-01 — Fall 2009 — 34175

U.S. POPULAR CULTURES:

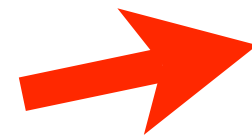
Introduction to American Popular Music

Dr. Ben Carson [Department of Music]



**Please enroll only if
you can attend mid-
term exams on
OCTOBER 20 and
NOVEMBER 12
(in class).**

<http://benjamin-carson.com/syllabus>



Unfortunately, I do not
have the resources to
grant *any* make-up tests
for those with scheduling
conflicts. Sorry!

MARIAH CAREY



- 1990 Debut album “Mariah Carey” was the biggest selling album of 1991
- Originally produced and promoted as the “white Whitney Houston”
 - (she’s not white)
- 18 No. 1 singles in the U.S. (topped only by the Beatles)

MARIAH CAREY

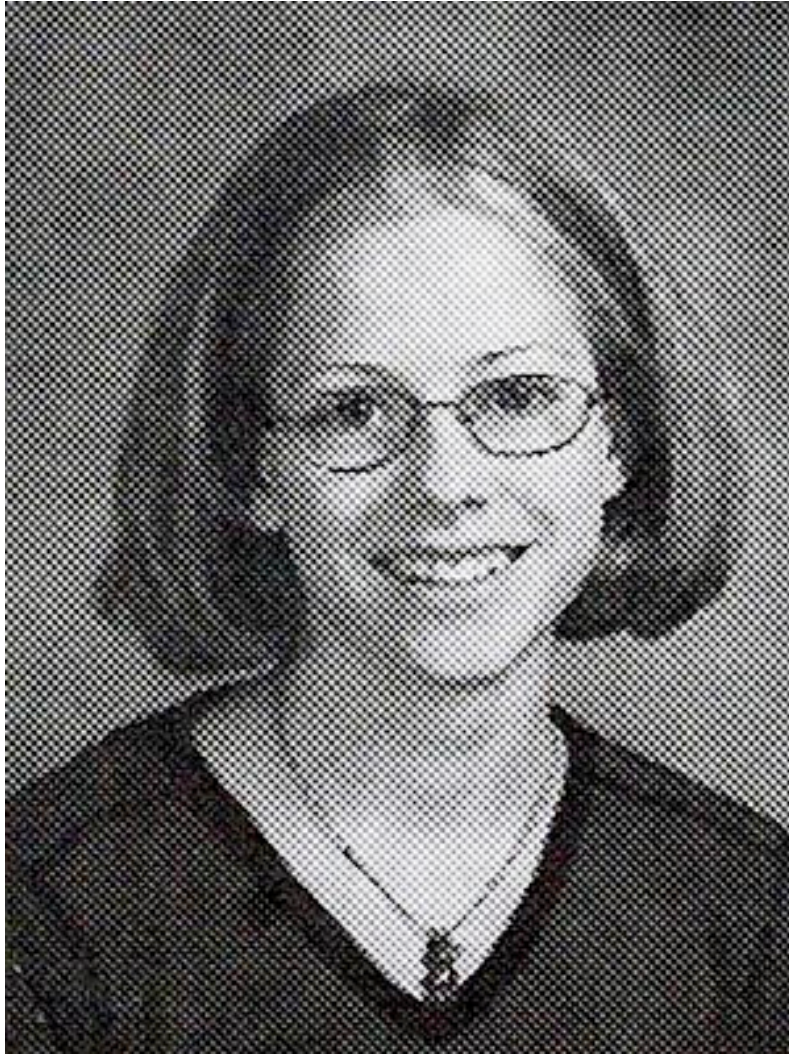


- Stylistic References
1990-1997: Pop/"soul"
 - 2nd album "Emotions" - an homage to Motown
 - 1997-present: R&B, Hip-hop
- Pioneered the house/hip-hop "remix" industry
- New York Times Oct. 95: " 'Daydream'...bring[s] pop candy-making to a new peak of textural refinement..."¹

¹Holden, Stephen. "Mariah Carey Glides Into New Territory." In [The New York Times](#). October 13, 1995 (76).

The historical origin of the “house re-mix”, in 30 words or less.

- “African-American musicians in the late 1970s **resisted** commercial radio by becoming their own DJs, **re-appropriating** commercial music with their own turntables and microphones, to **represent** their own lives and communities.”
- *Also evolves into aspects of hip-hop:*
 - › *Turntables --> the art of the DJ*
 - › *Microphones --> the art of the MC*



AVRIL LAVIGNE

- 2002 Debut album "Let Go" sold 16(+) million with singles "Complicated" and "Sk8er Boy"
- Deliberately contrasted with mainstream pop



AVRIL LAVIGNE

- References/influences
 - “Punk”
 - Tori Amos
- Developed a film “career” (2006) and fashion career (2008)
- Seventh wealthiest person under 25 years old

Due Thursday, October 1

- **Read—**

- Oliver, Paul. 1969. "**Froggy Bottom to Buckhead.**" In *The Story of the Blues*. Boston : Northeastern University Press. 40-51.
- Barker, Hugh and Yuval Taylor. 2007. "**Where Did You Sleep Last Night?**" In *Faking It: The Quest for Authenticity in Popular Music*. New York: Norton. 1-28.

- **Listen to Tracks—**

- **USERNAME: amst80f PASSWORD: punk2pop**

- **LIST: “By the Banks, In the Pines”** tracks 1-6
- **LIST: “Pre-war Country Blues”** tracks 4-5, 8-10

announcements

- The Final Exam is December 8 from noon to 3 pm
- Sorry! The final and the mid-term exams (10/21, 11/12 - in class) can't be offered at any other time.
- If you are on the waiting list, you will hear from me within 5 days.
- Mariah Carey is not the white Whitney Houston

- Name (neat handwriting appreciated)

- Student I.D. #

QUIZ: What kind of music do you identify with? Or -- what artist or style can no popular music course be without?

What are our goals in this course?

- Learn to associate music with the means of its production.
- Develop a sensitive, critical, and interpretative listening process...which is actually a kind of "musicianship."
 - (But you don't have to be a musician, or know anything about music!)
- Understand popular music through historical knowledge, and in cultural context.

What do I mean by 'historical and cultural context'?

- Understand historical and contemporary relationships between *communities*, the *music industry*, and *media* that connects them.
- Learn how music expresses not only
 - the "values" and preferences apparent "on the surface" of society
 - **how those values produce tension against the "everyday life" of individuals and communities.**
 - **EXPRESSED VALUES <---> EVERYDAY WORLD**