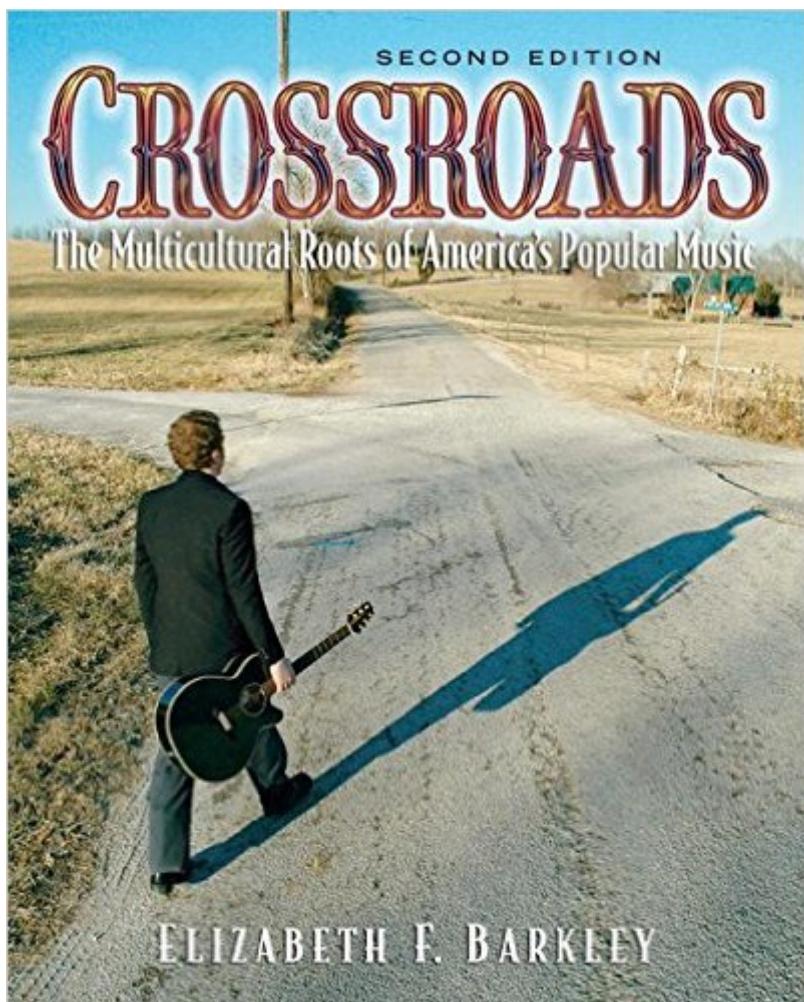


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# Crossroads: The Multicultural Roots Of America's Popular Music



## Synopsis

Primarily for courses in American music, popular music, or rock music; and also appropriate for courses in ethnic studies. Through a blended historical, ethnic, and musical approach, with a strong contemporary focus and the inclusion of a wide variety of musical styles from American society's broad ethnic groups, this text meets the needs of the new generation of faculty and students by more accurately reflecting the diverse musical traditions of the United States. Elizabeth Barkley wrote this book to meet the needs of today's more diverse student population. Returning to the classroom after nine years as an academic Dean, she was aware of the student demographic changes, but unprepared for the pedagogical implications of those changes. As she struggled to engage her students in a traditional music survey course, they looked bored and apathetic and it was then that she knew she had to find a better way. As a result, she created a new course called The Musics of Multicultural America, based on her analysis that an important characteristic that seemed to unify her students was "Americanness." Working with UC Berkeley's Center for the Study of American Cultures, she developed a course that traced a variety of contemporary musics such as rock 'n' roll, salsa, gospel, blues, jazz, Cajun, zydeco, and Tejano from their roots in the music traditions of immigrant groups to their hybridization and development into uniquely new American musics. Soon her classes were filled with enthusiastic students who had enrolled on the recommendation of former students, friends and counselors. The traditional survey course had averaged anywhere from 40 to 60 students per year; in 2005-06, the capped annual enrollment was at 1,250. This textbook is the result of her work developing materials for that course.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This lively and accessible book explores the musical traditions of five broad groups - Native Americans, European Americans, African Americans, Latino Americans, and Asian Americans - with particular interest in how those multicultural roots have intermingled to create contemporary American music. Along the way, author Elizabeth Barkley achieves a near impossible feat: presenting concise and candid histories of each cultural group, in addition to equally concise and clear explanations of the stylistic elements of their music. These elements are reinforced by the companion CD, which provides 18 listening examples with commentary. My only criticism is that the book suffers from inattentive editing. For example, the first citation in Chapter One is "Ibid." Several photo captions apparently include layout notations not intended for readers' eyes, sometimes to a mildly humorous effect. The content deserves better. Though designed for college students with no prior musical training, this book will be invaluable to high school and college music teachers wanting to infuse more diversity into their coursework, or for social studies teachers wanting to infuse more popular culture. I would also recommend it to those specifically interested in African American music since - not surprisingly - about half the chapters touch on it in one way or another. Highly recommended!

The author of this book makes a lot of statements that I do not agree with. The author cites many of the references that I have also read and somehow, although we have read the same information, I have taken away something different. We are using this as a college text and I am cringing when the misinformation is being presented in the class as accurate research. However, I also need to pass this class so I am refraining from voicing my opinion too loudly. If you need to buy this for a course, do not take everything said as factual truth. Do a little research on your own. Or... at least, do not quote this author as spoken truth.

Just what I needed for class and it also comes with a compact disc... This is also perfect textbook for multicultural music for the required college course.

got this book for school. it's an interesting book. not too hard to understand and read. don't really know what else to say. it's a college book class.

Received just as described, quickly. Used Prime. CD provided as well.

Good reference guide

Lots of great information and very relevant to the class I'm taking.

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