

Universidad Sin Fronteras Class, March 27, 2013: One Page Papers

Class #2: Culture and Liberation in the U. S. South
History of the Blues

What does the Blues mean to you?

The blues to me is a mixture of emotions put to sound. Reflecting the tone and depths of the person's sorrow and sometimes happiness. Blues is nothing more than a wishful song for a better tomorrow...

I like the definition given in the talks that the blues is a feeling. Either through music or lyrics, the blues help people express what they are going through as they create it and also as they hear it. I really listen to it and internalize lyrics. And the poetry of song lyrics teaches us. Tells us stories. Shows us images. Asks us questions. Makes us remember. I loved the moaning/mourning/morning lesson, because it feels like a great way to approach dealing with pain, struggle, problem solving. The blues is a healer, a balm. And often a call to action.

The blues means energy and feeling using words and the music to open up a wonderful liberating space. It means that the suffering and oppression experience by our ancestors and some of the living legends could be overcome by giving voice to the experience. I appreciate the connection between the music and the healing process as laid out by Dr. Foster. The other aspect is that it comes from the heart of our experience in that the beat has been maintained despite the oppression.

Something that touches me in ways that is powerful, especially the classic beat.
Connections to history on a gut level.
I couldn't hear the blues singers in my town when I was young because I was female (& white); thank goodness for records
This week I've got the "Georgia legislators can be so stupid and mean blues"

The Blues to me speaks to the struggle that the storyteller is trying to convey to their audience. It is an experience that they may be going through at that particular time in their life.
The Blues is an individual or societal truth. It is also an expression of feeling that is put to music to be freeing to one's spirit and soul.

I love the Blues
Even though the lyrics are sad →
But connecting with someone else's struggles is very therapeutic.

The Blues is memory and story and body, story and history felt, held in the body.
I feel so overwhelmed by what folks are sharing together in this class—across generations and gender—witnessing the Blues in community tonight makes me long to hear my father speak poetry in Arabic, to hear him sing old songs that are based on older poetry. The tone and register of Arabic poetry accesses deep, cracked-open longing, desire, ecstasy, communion, stories masking/carrying more controversial political critiques and philosophical arguments.
The Blues makes me want to go back home to a home that I haven't had and want more access to.
Thank you to everyone for this class.

The Blues to me would be the origin of African-American music. Being the release to African American culture. A way to come to realization about the state of society.

The Blues mainly expresses some of life's struggles. Whether it was good or bad experience. There's a lesson to be learned.

To me the blues is a sense of impowerment.

It gives u a chance to have power when all power has been stripped away from u. I think it also gives u a feeling of a brighter day although you're singing about a bad experience.