Folksongs consist of words and music that circulate orally in traditional variants among members of a particular group. Traditional ballads are narrative folksongs—folksongs that tell a story. In this course we deal with Anglo-American folk music, both secular and sacred. So we take up singing cowboys, country music, bluegrass, honky-tonk, and western swing as well as camp meeting songs and gospel songs. We also deal with African-American folk music, both secular and sacred. So we study work songs and blues as well as spirituals and gospel songs. As we move through time, we conclude with the folk revival movement as well as early rockabilly and rock n’ roll.