

7 Alternatives to Teaching Another Music Appreciation Course

- Bucket Drumming
 - Head down to the hardware store for a class set of buckets and order a brick of sticks from your local music store. The curriculum could begin with basic rhythms and sound production. Students will eventually create their own beats or watch play-along lessons on YouTube. Add some theatrics, and you have yourself a performance ensemble for the end of the semester.
- Music Technology
 - If your school has a computer lab, consider a music technology course that utilizes applications such as Chrome Music Lab, Garage Band, BandLab, or Soundtrap. Lessons could start as simple as recreating popular songs with tutorials and progress to creating their own music.
- Modern Music
 - Students who own instruments can present them to the class and a teacher-led history lesson about the instrument. Invite local musicians to offer their experiences in the music business. The course can include an instrument petting zoo and a mixed-ensemble of instruments performing modern songs. Guitars, kazoos, and shakers, oh my!
- Musical Fitness
 - Create a course that involves drumming, dancing, and cardio workouts. Drum and dance to student-created music or popular genres. Partner with your physical education department to utilize expertise, equipment, and facilities.
- Music History
 - “Pop Music of the Last 50 Years” and “History of Rock” are both launching points for an up-to-date and relevant course for your students. Beyond lectures, your music history course could contain instrument interaction as well as performances.
- Guitar/Ukulele Class
 - Students of all ages love learning to play the guitar. They are reasonable to purchase and easy to understand. One of the best resources for teachers is Bill Swick’s Weekly Newsletter. Each week, Bill sends out a newsletter explaining the week’s curriculum. It’s a no-fail approach! Sign up at www.guitarintheclassroom.com.
- Music Business
 - Music business is the hottest and one of the most contemporary course offerings available to high school students today. Music Business classes provide hands-on, project-based opportunities for students to align their interests in music to develop industry-related concepts and employability skills considered essential in the field. Students learn about the structure of and relationship between the recording, music publishing, marketing, and live performance industries. Your class(es) will fill up overnight! For more information on upcoming workshops to learn how to start a Music Business program, email stan.renard@utsa.edu.