MUS 103 CRN #92577 -- History of Rock and Roll, Fall 2010

Professor Sarah Wall
Office Hours: 11-12:00
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COURSE GOALS

This course examines the varying sub-styles of rock by highlighting its famed performers and audiences. The student will also study song form, instrumentation, important historical dates, as well as relevant social and political movements; thus, being better able to identify different eras and the stylistic changes important to rock. The student will develop an enriched appreciation for this musical style and its social impact.

OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:
1. Identify important historical dates and figures.
2. Define social and political trends affected by Rock.
3. Understand formal structures of Rock including:
   a. harmonic language
   b. rhythmic development
   c. instrumentation
   d. improvisational techniques
4. Recognize and become better familiarized with the different eras and musical styles that contributed to the formation of Rock & Roll.
5. Have a greater appreciation for this musical style and its influence(s) on world cultures.

GRADING POLICY

4 Exams: 60%  NO MAKE-UP EXAMS!
Projects: 20% Concert Attendance with Evaluation and Ticket Stub
         10% Music Journal
         10% Attendance
STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

2. Completion of weekly reading assignments and long-term projects
3. Class participation
4. Regular and prompt attendance at each class meeting

ATTENDANCE & TARDINESS POLICY

All students are expected to be prepared and on time to each class session. In the event of an emergency or illness, notify the instructor via the main office at 631-548-2559 or walls@sunysuffolk.edu. The college defines excessive absence or lateness as more than the equivalent of one week of class meetings missed during the semester. Tardiness and early departure will count as an absence. **IF YOU ARE ABSENT FROM MORE THAN THREE CLASS MEETINGS, YOU WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE CLASS ROSTER. NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Cell Phones and Laptops

Use of cell phones, laptops and the like are not permitted during class, and should be **turned off** **before** entering class. Three points will be deducted from your final grade for each violation.

CONCERT EVALUATIONS

Attendance to two concerts is required for this course. This is your independent project. Although I do consider only official concerts for review (no rehearsals, impromptu performances, etc.), selecting and attending the concert is solely your responsibility. Following the concert, you will write an evaluation based on what you heard or experienced with a length of two full double-spaced pages. A ticket stub is required along with the finished evaluation. Discuss reactions to the performer or band, the hall, the atmosphere and audience while trying to incorporate musical ideas discussed in class—melody, rhythm and tempo, lyrics, improvisation, instrumentation, etc. It is expected that the student follow the “evaluation guideline” for this assignment. No late papers are accepted. **If you are unable to commit to this project, this course is not appropriate for you.**

MUSIC JOURNAL

Students are expected to create a journal which should include responses to given musical examples and corresponding questions. During class, the journal will focus primarily on song: lyrics and their meaning, instrumentation and form, and historical context. Outside of class, you will follow and review assigned music websites. It is intended that the journal provoke thought on music as culture. It also promotes the development of interpretive and analytical skills on music, performers, and audiences.
COURSE CALENDAR

*This is considered an overview of class content and a tentative schedule of exams. A more detailed schedule of class discussion along with reading assignments will be given on a weekly basis.

Week 1, Aug. 30th: Elements of Music.

Week 2, Sept. 6th: (Mon. No Class) Prehistory of Rock and Roll.

Week 3, Sept. 13th: Prehistory.

Week 4, Sept. 20th: 1950’s Rock.

Week 5, Sept. 27th: 1950’s Rock. *EXAM 1*

Week 6, Oct. 4th: The British Invasion.

Week 7, Oct. 11th: The Beatles. -- Concert Evaluation 1 Due --

Week 8, Oct. 18th: The Beach Boys. Girl Groups and Soul.


Week 10, Nov. 1st: Rock and the Civil Rights Movement. *EXAM 2*

Week 11, Nov. 8th: Psychedelic Rock.

Week 12, Nov. 15th: Progressive Rock.

Week 13, Nov. 22nd: Progressive Rock. (Wed. No Class)

Week 14, Nov. 29th: Disco and Funk. Early Metal. -- Concert Evaluation 2 Due --

Week 15, Dec. 6th: Early Metal and Punk. *EXAM 3*

Week 16, Dec. 13th: MTV & the 80s. WED. FINAL EXAM

Week 17, Dec. 20th: Last Day Monday: JOURNALS DUE.