

HISTORY OF ROCK AND ROLL  
Music 351C - Class Syllabus  
Summer - 2008

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Office M202, Music Building [Office hours, M-TH 9:30-10:00am & 11:40am-noon]

This course challenges the student to reevaluate a familiar musical medium "Rock and Roll" as cultural expression blossoming from events, trends and contemporary thought, as opposed to sheer entertainment for listening or dance. It analyzes the musical and textual structure as the vehicle for this expression. The History of Rock and Roll connects the student to the recent past and examines cultural context and change, and practices. In addition, it requires the student to learn about the basic elements of music in preparation for the student's in-class presentation.

The History of Rock and Roll class will deal with human response both physiological and psychological to music. It will deal with U.S. and World history and societal factors from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries to the present. The materials and facts presented in this class, in addition to being historical, are very **graphic and direct**. This course will introduce the student to the evolution of American popular music from its early blues roots to the music from 1950 to about 1990. The Rock and Roll artist's musical works will be studied and evaluated from musical, sociological, psychological, historical and financial perspectives. Students should develop a better understanding of where the music originated from; the form's intrinsic musical quality/value; the affects/influences this music has both in their present and future lives; and how the entertainment industry impacts/controls social, psychological and financial facets of American life.

**Attendance:** Attendance will be taken at each student in-class presentation. One point will be deducted for each missed presentation. If you need to leave early, notify Prof. Yeager before class and sit as close as possible to the rear exit.

**DO NOT DISRUPT THE CLASS!**

**TEXT AND RECORDINGS**

1. Rockin' in Time: A Social History of Rock-and-Roll 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. [David P. Szatmary]  
Pearson Prentice Hall, 2007
2. General Purpose - NCS - Answer Sheet - form no. PO99B (purchase 4)
3. Recordings on website: <<http://jazz.sdsu.edu/>>  
(click on "MUS 351C History of Rock and Roll")

**GRADING AND POLICIES**

The total semester grade will be based on two of three tests (with the lowest score deleted), the final exam, and the required in-class presentation.

50 points per test (with lowest score deleted)  
100 points for the final exam (comprehensive)  
50 points for the required in-class presentation

250-233	A	232-225	A-	224-218	B+
217-209	B	208-200	B-	199-193	C+
192-184	C	183-175	C-	174-168	D+
167-158	D	157-150	D-	149-below	F

No make-ups. If you miss a test, that becomes your deleted score. Anyone caught cheating on an exam or plagiarism will fail the entire course and will be denied course forgiveness.

**TEST DATES**

Test I **Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>** Elements of Music (lectures); Preface (pp. ix-xiii); Chapter 1 (pp. 1-8); Website Listening  
Test II **Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>** Chapter 1 (pp. 6-28); Chapters 2 & 3; Website Listening  
Test III **Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>** Chapters 4, 5, 6 & 7; Website Listening  
Final **Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>** Comprehensive; Chapters 8-16; Website Listening

**IN-CLASS PRESENTATIONS**

Presentations will be of a 10 minute length.

The outline of the presentation will be due to Prof. Yeager at the beginning of the presentation.

The student may select any piece of music he or she wants to present from any type of music from any era and from all areas of the world. The selection is not limited to rock and roll, but can be classical, jazz, country/western, R&B, rap, hip hop, punk, reggae, latin, mariachi, folk, gamelan, koto, alternative, etc., or any type of music from around the world.

**It should represent a piece of music you are passionate about.**

The musical selection must be in CD form (to be played in class, CD not turned in) and no longer than 5 minutes (longer pieces should be abridged).

#### OUTLINE

1. Name of artist and/or group
2. Name of Song
3. Style of Music
4. Number of people in group
5. Instrumentation of group
6. Range and number of voice(s) (if applicable)
7. Tempo (BPM)
8. Meter (beats per measure/bar)
9. Harmony (largely consonant or dissonant)
10. Major or Minor Key
11. A brief essay on why you picked this piece of music, why it is significant, and why you find it enjoyable. (300-500 words).