MHL 153 – Rock Music and Culture

COURSE SYLLABUS - Phoenix College - Class # 18177 – Spring 2016
Instructor: Dr. Alex Wier, adjunct faculty
E-mail: alexander.wier@phoenixcollege.edu
Website: https://maricopa.instructure.com (Canvas)

Class Meeting Days/Times/Location: None; Online only

This syllabus is subject to change based upon the progress of the class. Any changes in the course requirements or policies will be clearly communicated to the students.

DESCRIPTION

ROCK MUSIC AND CULTURE is devoted to understanding the cultural, social, political, and economic conditions that shaped popular music in America through the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

COURSE COMPETENCIES

Upon successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Describe African and European characteristics found in rock music and the various styles of American music that developed from the slavery period through the 1950s.
2. Compare and contrast the style traits of the various blues styles from its roots through the 1950s and list at least one significant artist from each variation.
3. Describe the basic 12-bar blues form and its significance to early R&B and Rock & Roll.
4. Describe the importance of radio and independent record labels on the rising popularity of R&B and Rock & Roll.
5. Be able to identify and describe the early styles of rock and roll: R&B Crossover, Rockabilly and Doo Wop. Identify the characteristics, roots and significant practitioners of these styles as well as the cultural and racial implications of each.
6. Describe how Rock & Roll was influenced by and adapted to the Tin Pan Alley-style songwriting factories of the 1950s and early 1960s.
7. Describe the musical and cultural influence of the Beach Boys.
8. Describe the political/social nature of folk music on young Americans in the 1950s and ‘60s.
9. Describe the influence that Bob Dylan had on songwriting, folk and rock in the 1960s.
10. Describe the impact that Motown, Stax and Atlantic Records had on popular music and African-American culture in the 1960s and beyond.
11. Describe the varying styles of popular music in Britain in the 1960s and how they became a dominant force in American popular music.
12. Describe the evolution of musical and recording style of the Beatles in the 1960s using singles, albums and films as examples.
13. Describe the “Counter Culture” of the 1960s and how it influenced and was influenced by the major rock musicians of the day.
14. Compare and contrast the divergent musical styles of the 1970s and the connections they had to a culturally diverse population.
15. Identify the roots of heavy metal and identify several early examples of proto-metal in Britain and America.
16. Compare the cultural differences that gave rise to American and British punk and list several influential bands from both regions.
17. Describe the musical and cultural events that aided in the development of both Hip Hop and Grunge/Alternative rock.
18. Discuss the changes in recording mediums and the effect each has had on rock and popular music.
REQUIRED MATERIALS/TECHNOLOGIES
- Access to the internet
- Speakers or headphones to listen to lecture and music recordings/videos
  - Reading of the text is required for successful completion of the course. Homework assignments and test questions will be constructed from the topics presented in the book. Required discussion questions will also be related to the current chapter as we progress through the textbook.

COURSE POLICIES
- Students are responsible for knowing and understanding the syllabus.
- Students are responsible for knowing their rights and responsibilities. You can find these in the College Catalogue and the Student Handbook, both accessible on the Phoenix College website.
- Statement of Accommodation: Any students with a disability needing academic adjustments are requested to speak directly to Disability Resource & Services as early in the semester (preferably within the first week) as possible in the Hannely Center, HC 210, or at 602-285-7477.
- Attendance: There are no in-person class meetings so a traditional attendance policy does not apply to this course. However, you will need to remain active in the course to continue enrollment. If a student does not satisfactorily meet the course requirements for two or more weeks the instructor may withdraw the student from the course. Participation points also make up a significant part of your grade in the form of weekly discussion questions.

TIME COMMITMENT/ONLINE COURSE SUGGESTIONS
- This course is divided into weekly modules and there are weekly deadlines to meet.
- Please understand that online courses require a different approach from the student. Compared to an in-person class where the material is carefully presented to you during regularly scheduled meetings, in an online class YOU are responsible for working through the material by your own willpower. I recommend scheduling times weekly to work on this class; it will help you to resist the urge of procrastination.
- It is always better to start things early and finish early than to try and finish things at the last minute and either turn in an inferior product or run out of time. This is especially important near the beginning of the semester when you are adjusting to the class and website and things may take longer than you expect.
- If there is a technical issue with the website that is interfering with your ability to turn in work, please stay calm. If you have enough time before the due date just try again later as the website routinely updates and has maintenance. You can also try rebooting your computer or internet browser, which often fixes the problem. If you are tight against a deadline simply take a picture of the screen (screenshot on the computer or a phone/camera picture of the screen) that shows the error message AND the time. Then immediately email me that picture and your assignment as it is right then. I will note the time of the email along with your picture so if you send the assignment much later, it will look suspicious. This will help protect you and clearly demonstrate when and what version of the assignment you were trying to turn in.

CIVILITY/CONTROVERSIAL AND SENSITIVE TOPICS
Course material may include information that can be considered controversial and sensitive. I want you to share your ideas and opinions on our course topics and it is important to learn from each other. However, everyone comes to class with different perspectives, life experiences, and expectations. This diversity of thought, along with our freedom to disagree with one another, should be appreciated. Our comments to one another should always be respectful, thoughtful, and mature. Personal attacks, intimidation, and insults will not be tolerated and can result in being dropped from the course. If anything or anyone offends you, please speak with ME ASAP.
COURSE CONTENT EXPECTATIONS
It is expected that you read all assigned textbook chapters and read/watch all content provided in the modules. All of the materials work together to cover the course content and are equally important.

STANDARDS FOR ASSIGNMENTS, QUIZZES, AND EXAMS
- Written material must be typed and double spaced
- Good writing practices are expected; proofread your work and take pride in it
- If English is not your first language, please consider consulting the Student Writing Center for assistance
- Academic Misconduct will be handled severely. Please carefully read below for explanations/definitions
- All assignments and exams must be completed on time; no late work will be accepted

DEFINITIONS OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT AND PLAGIARISM
- Academic Misconduct includes misconduct associated with the classroom, laboratory or clinical learning process. Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, excessive absences, use of abusive or profane language, and disruptive and/or threatening behavior.
- Plagiarism, whether intentional or accidental, is the act of using another person's ideas, information, or words (phrases, sentences, paragraphs, essays, etc.) and presenting them as your own. Examples of research sources include printed materials (books, newspapers, magazines, etc.), articles and information found on the Internet, emails, information taken from lectures, material taken from records, CDs, videos, DVDs, films, television programs, songs, published, unpublished, private, or public materials and any work created by others. Whether you quote word for word, paraphrase, or summarize material, you must still give credit to the source using standard documentation. Plagiarism is academic dishonesty and is a violation of copyright or intellectual property rights law. Some, but not all, instances which constitute plagiarism are:
  1. Using all or part of another source (published or unpublished) word-for-word without quotation marks and without proper documentation or acknowledgment in the text.
  2. Paraphrasing or summarizing another source without proper documentation or acknowledgment.
  3. Using original ideas, concepts, theories, data, or prepared outlines expressed by another, in writing, in speech, or in any format without proper documentation or acknowledgment in the text.
  4. Borrowing from an anonymous author without giving credit to the source and signing your own name.
  5. Copying from another student's paper or allowing someone to copy your work.
  6. Buying, downloading, or acquiring and submitting as your own work a paper or assignment prepared, in its entirety or in part, by someone else.
  7. Having another person correct and edit your paper to the degree that it is not representative of your work.

PENALTIES FOR PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT
Depending on the specific circumstances of the plagiarism, the instructor will follow the Phoenix College catalog and the Student Handbook's list of possible sanctions for dealing with plagiarism, which are listed below in no specific order. Instructors use up-to-date technology and software to detect plagiarism including TurnItIn.com.
- Lowering of assignment or course grade
- Failure or no credit for plagiarized assignment with no possibility for make up
- Course failure and written notification or an in-person meeting with the Dean of Student Affairs
- Academic probation
- College suspension
- Permanent college expulsion from any MCCCQ college

EVALUATION PROCESS
- The grade for this class is divided into four categories: Homework (30%), Discussion Participation (20%), Written Assignments (15%), and Exams (35%).
- Grading Scale: A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F = 59% and below
GRADE SECTION DESCRIPTIONS

Homework Assignments: Homework assignments will be directly drawn from topics presented in the textbook along with videos and other supplemental information included in the modules. The homework assignments and discussion questions are weekly assignments included in each module.

Discussion Participation: Since this is an online course and there are no face-to-face meetings, group interaction will be facilitated through discussion topics in each module. Each week of the semester the class will be presented with a question for consideration. You must make at least one personal comment and one response to another classmate's comments during each week (but you are welcome to say more!). Your comment and a response also must take place on separate days to receive full credit. This is to facilitate an actual discussion and encourage people to participate throughout the week, not just on the last day. Please keep all comments and responses constructive - you may disagree, but profanity and inappropriate comments will not be tolerated (see "Civility/Controversial Topics..." section above). Discussion questions will stay open for the semester (after they are unlocked) and can be continued for as long as they are active. However, discussions are available for credit only during the week of the current module and there will be no make-up discussion points.

Written Assignments: There will be two Album Review papers. Specific assignment guidelines and expectations will be clearly posted along with a sample of proper essay writing.

Exams: A total of three exams will be given during the semester. All exams will include material from homework assignments, discussion questions, and text/module contents. The format of each exam is all multiple-choice questions. The first two exams are available on Canvas for a period of 5 full days and the third exam is available for the full 7 days of finals week. The first and third exams include 40 questions and you have an hour to complete them, while the second exam consists of 55 questions and you have 80 minutes to complete it. To aid in your preparation, a basic review outline will be posted on Canvas one week in advance of each exam.