



GEORGETOWN  
COLLEGE

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Department of Music 307A

History of Rock Music (3 hours credit)

Syllabus, Spring 2009

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(Please, no dancing in class. ;-)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Study of the origins, characteristics and stylistic development of rock and roll music from the early 1950s through the 1990s.

**TEXTBOOK:** Stuessy, Joe. *Rock and Roll: Its History and Stylistic Development*, 5th ed., Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1999. [ISBN 0-13-099370-0] (text optional)

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:** None. *Please return listening-guide CD by the end of the semester (final exam date or earlier).* See \*\*incentive under EVALUATION.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** At the conclusion of the course, you should be able to: (1) describe the origins of rock and roll music from existing musical styles of the early '50s, (2) associate music artists with various rock styles, and by decade, (3) describe the musical characteristics of various rock styles, and, (4) aurally identify rock styles and major rock artists.

**REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:** (1) reading assignments, (2) five tests, (3) final examination, (4) class presentation. (All tests will include aural identification.)

**COURSE OUTLINE**

WEEK ONE:

Monday, Jan. 12:	No Class
Wednesday, Jan. 14:	Rock Music Pre-Quiz, Origins of Rock Music, 1950s
Friday, Jan. 16:	1950s

WEEK TWO:

Monday, Jan. 19:	<b>MLK Jr. Day – No Class</b>
Wednesday, Jan. 21:	1950s
Friday, Jan. 23:	1950s

WEEK THREE:

Monday, Jan. 26:	1950s
Wednesday, Jan. 28:	<b>TEST 1: 1950s rock</b>
Friday, Jan. 30:	Folk Music

WEEK FOUR:

Monday, Feb. 2:	Surf / Dance Music
Wednesday, Feb. 4:	<b>No Class due to KMEA</b>
Friday, Feb. 6:	Surf / Dance Music / Beatles

WEEK FIVE:

Monday, Feb. 9:	Beatles
Wednesday, Feb. 11:	<b>TEST 2: Folk, Surf, Dance Music; Beatles</b>
Friday, Feb. 13:	British Invasion

WEEK SIX:

Monday, Feb. 16:	British Invasion
Wednesday, Feb. 18:	Folk Rock
Friday, Feb. 20:	Folk Rock

WEEK SEVEN:

Monday, Feb. 23:	Soul / Motown
Wednesday, Feb. 25:	Soul / Motown
Friday, Feb. 27:	San Francisco

WEEK EIGHT:

Monday, March 2:	San Francisco
Wednesday, March 4:	<b>TEST 3: British Inv., Folk Rock, Soul, Motown, San Frn.</b>
Friday, March 6:	Jazz Rock

WEEK NINE:

Monday, March 9:	Jazz Rock
Wednesday, March 11:	Art Rock
Friday, March 13:	Art Rock

**S P R I N G   B R E A K**WEEK TEN:

Monday, March 23:	1970s
Wednesday, March 25:	1970s
Friday, March 27:	1970s

WEEK ELEVEN:

Monday, March 30:	1970s
Wednesday, April 1:	1970s
Friday, April 3:	<b>TEST 4: Jazz Rock, Art Rock, 1970s</b>

WEEK TWELVE:

Monday, April 6:	1980s
Wednesday, April 8:	1980s
Friday, April 10:	<b>Good Friday: No Class</b>

WEEK THIRTEEN:

Monday, April 13:	1980s
Wednesday, April 15:	<b>TEST 5: 1980s</b>
Friday, April 17:	1990s

WEEK FOURTEEN:

Monday, April 20:	1990s
Wednesday, April 22:	1990s
Friday, April 24:	<b>CLASS PRESENTATIONS</b>

WEEK FIFTEEN:

Monday, April 27:	<b>CLASS PRESENTATIONS</b>
Wednesday, April 29:	<b>CLASS PRESENTATIONS</b>
Friday, May 1:	<b>CLASS PRESENTATIONS</b>

WEEK SIXTEEN:

Monday, May 4:	<b>CLASS PRESENTATIONS</b>
Wednesday, May 6:	<b>CLASS PRESENTATIONS</b>

**FINAL EXAMINATION:** As scheduled by the Registrar's Office. Seniors (only) with an A average are exempt from taking the Final Exam ... rock 'n' roll.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:** See College Catalog and Student Handbook.

**EVALUATION:** Grading scale for the course is:

A=93-100 A/B=88-92 B=83-87 B/C=78-82 C=70-77 D=60-69 F=0-59

The final course grade will be computed as follows:

Five Tests = 75% (15% each)

Final Examination = 15%

Class Presentation = 10% (graded as follows: Excellent = 97, Good = 85, Average = 74, Poor = 64, Incomplete/Failing = 0)

*\*\*Incentive: For returning your Listening Guide CD on the final exam date or before, one full percentage point will be added to your final course G.P.A.! Oooo, THAT could be significant!*

**ATTENDANCE:** In that there are approximately 40 class meetings, you will be allowed four excused absences (10% of total) without penalty. For each additional absence, your final numerical course grade will be lowered by *two percentage points* (yeow)! The only exceptions are: (1) absences due to a college field trip (which will not count toward the four excused absences), or, (2) an extended/serious illness, recognized by the college—please see that I am notified by the Dean of Students. (I recommend that you save absences for bona fide illnesses, and for days before holidays should you wish to leave campus early. Classes will *not* be canceled prior to holidays.)

**Tardies:** Four tardies will be counted as one of your excused absences. If you arrive late, please see me after class so that I may mark you late, rather than absent.

*\*\*\*Make-up Tests:* It is your advantage to be present on days when tests are given. Your first make-up test will be lowered by 10 points; a second will be lowered by 20 points, etc. This will apply regardless. The only two exceptions are those described above.

Missing the Final Examination will result in an F for that test grade, unless a dire emergency is documented/proven.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:** See web page for Bibliography, Test Study Guides and other handouts.