

THE HISTORY OF ROCK

Course Syllabus

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Course Description:

In this course you will study the development over five decades of the musical genre that has come to be known as Rock and Roll or simply Rock Music. You will examine the structure and practices of the music business in the twentieth century in general to find the context for Rock's arrival on the scene in the mid 1950's, including the social, political and cultural trends of that time. You will look closely at the players and their contributions to the development of the genre as well as their influence on each other. You will examine the music itself by: 1) listening to key examples of predominant styles and trends that developed at different periods, 2) learning to analyze songs to determine their formal structure as well as rhythmic style and melodic content, and 3) doing in depth studies of the musicians themselves.

Course Goals:

- 1) To have learners gain a deep understanding of social/political/cultural developments of the last half of the twentieth century through the lens of the music that helped shape them and in turn was shaped by them.
- 2) To learn about the key players and their influence on the music /culture of their time and their relationship with each other.
- 3) To help learners understand some key musical concepts that will help deepen their enjoyment and appreciation of the music they listen to.
- 4) To highlight the history of youth culture and explore its power and responsibilities.

Materials:

Text Book: *What's That Sound*, by John Covach
YouTube videos
The Internet

Learner Actions:

All learners are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the current reading assignment. There will be one research paper required per semester that will be presented by the learner to the class. Quizzes will be given every other week and at the end of each chapter. Learners will have a parent or guardian call in to the office if they cannot attend class on a particular day. Absences will otherwise be considered unexcused. Three unexcused absences will result in a failing grade.

Assessments:

All learners will receive a letter grade at the end of each semester. Semester grades will be averaged at the end of the year for the final grade. Credit will be awarded to learners with passing grades.

Grades will be determined by a point system. .Points can be accumulated in the following way

1. Quizzes. There will be approximately 12 quizzes per semester. Perfect scores will receive 2 points. 60% or more will receive 1 point. 24 points possible
2. Attendance. Perfect attendance will receive 20 points. One point will be taken off for every class missed.
3. Class participation. There will be 10 points possible for class participation. Daily participation will result in 10 points. Moderate participation will result in 5-9 points. Low participation will earn 1-5 points
4. Research paper and presentation. There will be 10 points possible for a quality research paper and presentation. Papers will be graded on content, grammar and punctuation and originality. Learners will be able to choose from a wide variety of topics.
5. There will be plenty of chances to get extra credit. These opportunities will be discussed in class.

40 points or above = A

35-39 points = B

30-34 points = C

25-29 points = D

24 points or below = F