

Music 2700B: Post WWII Popular Music

Winter 2024

Course Delivery: In person

Instructor: Dr. Mark McCorkle

Email: mmccorkl@uwo.ca

Course Description

This course examines popular music after World War 2 with a particular focus on Rock & Roll. Students will learn the social, cultural, and aesthetic histories of rock & roll through a series of representative works. Through the study of these influential rock albums, we will emphasize developing critical listening skills and analyzing the musical makeup of the genre. Throughout, students will analyze and contest the boundaries of the genre and what has historically been considered to land within and outside of the umbrella of rock.

Preparation and Materials

Preparation for each week will involve listening to one or two albums (listed on the course schedule below) and reading one or two articles (posted on OWL). Please prepare these readings and listenings ahead of the class meeting each week.

There is no required textbook for this course; readings will be made available to students on OWL. For access to the assigned listening, I recommend considering a subscription to a music streaming service for the duration of the course. I will create a Spotify playlist with all of the assigned listenings for those using that platform.

Evaluation

Quiz 1 (20%)

Quiz 2 (20%)

Media Review (20%)

Final Project (40%)

Evaluation Summary

1. Quizzes: The quizzes will be done asynchronously, online. Once posted, students will have one week to complete the quizzes, respectively. Quiz 1 will be posted on OWL on

January 31st and will be due on February 7th. Quiz 2 will be posted on OWL on March 6th and will be due on March 13th. The quizzes will be made up of multiple-choice questions that test students' understanding of course content from the lectures and assigned readings.

2. **Media Review:** (1000 - 1200 words, due Friday, February 16th)

Write a short essay reviewing and responding to a rock-related film/documentary (a list of eligible films will be posted on OWL). Your essay should include a (very) brief overview of what the film is about, analyze its biases, discuss its representation of its subjects, and provide your own critical response or opinion. Note that this essay should not be a summary of the film; rather, it should be a critical piece that analyzes the film using the knowledge and skills you have gained from the course and that focuses on the ways that the musicians and their music are represented.

3. **Final Project:** (due March 28th): Students have two options for their final project.

Option A: Research Paper

For the research paper option, students will write a 1500-word research paper on any topic related to the course themes. Students may choose to write about a musical work, a historical moment, a theme related to rock music, or any number of other suitable topics. Students may approach the topic from any scholarly perspective. The bibliography for this paper must include at least 3 scholarly sources.

Option B: Podcast

For the podcast option, students will choose a rock song or album by an artist not covered in class and will record a 3 – 5 minute podcast episode designed to teach new listeners how to understand that work. This should be accessible and informational and should include terminology learned in class as well as some historical, social, and cultural background. This assignment may be done individually or in groups of two if students would like to work in pairs. Note that musical examples *do not* count towards the 3-5 minute time limit.

Grading scale: A+=90-100%, A=80-89%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, D=50-59%, F=0-49%.

Missed/Late Assignment Policy

Late assignments will not be accepted without proper documentation. See below (page 5) for information on academic considerations.

Course Outline

Each week of the course is based on one or two representative albums and a theme arising from those works. The 3 hours of instructional time each week will involve some combination of lectures, guided listening sessions, and interactive activities and discussions.

Schedule

Week 1 (Jan. 10th): The Early Days of Rock: Black Music, Elvis Presley, and the Origins of Rock & Roll

Listening: *Here's Little Richard*, Little Richard; *Elvis Presley (album)*, Elvis Presley

Week 2 (Jan. 17th): The British Invasion: The Rolling Stones and the Beatles

Listening: *Aftermath*, The Rolling Stones; *Sgt. Peppers Lonely Hearts Club Band*, The Beatles.

Week 3 (Jan 24th): Early Women of Rock: Janis Joplin & Joni Mitchell

Listening: *Blue*, Joni Mitchell; *Pearl*, Janis Joplin

Week 4 (Jan 31st): Bob Dylan and “Selling Out”

Listening: *Blonde on Blonde*, Bob Dylan

Week 5 (Feb. 7th): Glam Rock: David Bowie

Listening: *The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars*, David Bowie

**Quiz 1 due*

Week 6 (Feb 14th): Analyzing Vocal Styles: Prince

Listening: *Purple Rain*, Prince

**Feb 16th: Media Review due*

* *Feb. 21st: Reading Week – no class.*

Week 7 (Feb. 28th): Nationalism, Masculinity, and Whiteness in Rock: Bruce Springsteen

Listening: *Born in the U.S.A.*, Bruce Springsteen

Week 8 (March 6th): Riot Grrrl and Gender Politics in Rock

Listening: *Bikini Kill (EP)*, Bikini Kill

Week 9 (March 13th): Punk, Grunge, and Authenticity: Nirvana

Listening: *Nevermind*, Nirvana

**Quiz 2 due*

Week 10 (March 20th): Rock and Indigeneity: Indigenous Rock in Canada

Listening: *Power in the Blood*, Buffy St. Marie

Week 11 (March 27th): The Sounds of a Generation: 2000's Punk

Listening: *Enema of the State*, Blink 182

**March 28th: Final Project due*

Week 12 (April 3rd): Contemporary Rock Styles

Listening: *GUTS*, Olivia Rodrigo

Course Prerequisites: None

Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Academic Consideration for Student Absence & Missing Work (≥10%): Students are responsible for making up any missed classes or assignments as soon as possible. The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. Academic Consideration provides students with consistent, fair, and pedagogically appropriate consideration, without compromising the academic integrity of the course or program, when they have been unable to complete some component of a course due to short-term extenuating circumstances. Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions (physical or mental) that may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities are directed to seek Academic Accommodation through Accessible Education ([Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)).

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the end of the period of absence covered, to the Academic Counselling unit or Office of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC210), of the student's Home Faculty together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the academic consideration being requested. Students are directed to read the Senate Policy on Academic Consideration for Medical Illness at the following website for further details regarding various requirements and procedures for the supporting documentation:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration.pdf

Whenever possible, students who require academic consideration should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

Academic Consideration for Missing Work (<10%): In cases where students miss work that is worth less than 10% of the total course grade due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, an extension may be granted by the instructor in consultation with the student. Students who have been denied accommodation by an instructor may appeal this decision to the Associate Dean's office but will be required to present appropriate documentation.

Academic Offences: Submission of work with which you have received help from someone else (other than the course instructor or TA) is an example of plagiarism, which is considered a major academic offence. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as

found at:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Mental Health & Wellness: Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to the Health and Wellness at Western page (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help or to go to the Wellness Education Centre located in Thames Hall room 2170. **Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in Thames Hall 2170 or to click on the big green “I Need Help Now” button on the Health and Wellness page above.**

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Students work with Accessible Education which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

Religious Accommodation: Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays (other than statutory holidays), and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. The Diversity Calendar from the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion provides information on multifaith, multicultural and diversity related holidays and observances and links to resources for more information. <https://www.edi.uwo.ca/resources/2816-2023-Diversity-Calendar-PDF.pdf>

Contingency Plan: Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, should any university-declared emergency require some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience), the course will adapt accordingly. The grading scheme will **not** change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

Gender-Based and Sexual Violence: Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence, either recently or in the past, you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca or call 519 661-3568.

Plagiarism Detection Software Usage: All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism, which includes AI writing detection tools. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for

the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).

Computer-marked Multiple-choice Tests or Exams: These may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.