

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

MUSIC 115 – HISTORY OF ROCK MUSIC

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

Overview of rock and rock-related musical styles from the early 1950s to the present. Coverage includes related social and cultural trends, outstanding artists, the influence of technology on popular music, and relevant trends in the music industry. Basic musical concepts such as pitch, rhythm and form will be introduced and applied to the music under consideration.

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

- 1) Introductory discussion of musical elements including rhythm, timbre, melody, harmony and form, with an emphasis on the development of enhanced aural perception
- 2) Roots of rock music: blues, country, gospel and popular music
- 3) Early rock styles from the 1950s up to the British invasion
- 4) Classic rock from the British invasion through the early 1970s
- 5) The punk revolution and its aftermath: punk, hip hop and alternative rock
- 6) Recent trends in popular music

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Identify and aurally discern the differences between various styles of rock and rock-related music and its outstanding artists.
- 2) Analyze impact of cultural, social and technological developments on popular music in the second half of the 20th century.
- 3) Apply musical concepts such as rhythm, timbre, harmony and form to demonstrate critical listening skills with popular music.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Presentation projects that measure students' ability to identify the style characteristics and significant contributions of outstanding artists.
- 2) Written homework assignments, concert reports and website reviews that measure students' ability to identify various styles within popular music and their outstanding artists.
- 3) Quizzes and exams that measure students' ability to analyze the cultural, social and technological influences on rock and rock-related musical styles.
- 4) Critical listening exercises and assignments that measure students' ability to aurally observe musical concepts such as rhythm, timbre, harmony and form using examples from popular music.

Special Materials Required of Student

None

Minimum Instructional Facilities

- 1) Smart classroom with stereo system, videotape player, overhead projector
- 2) Library-based computer lab with interactive software

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture and discussion
- 2) Assigned reading and listening/review with interactive software programs
- 3) Demonstration
- 4) Group exercises

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) Reading and listening assignments
- 2) Short answer worksheets that cover assigned reading
- 3) Concert reports

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative example): Comprehensive history of popular music text combining musical analysis with a broader historical and cultural context such as: Larson, Thomas E. *History of Rock and Roll*, 6th ed. Kendall-Hunt, 2018.
- 2) Supplemental: Brackett, David. *The Rock, Pop, and Soul Reader: Histories and Debates*, 3rd ed., Oxford, 2013.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Observe and identify musical elements in recorded or live performances.
- 2) Identify the features of the major style periods in rock music.