University of Waterloo: Conrad Grebel College

MUSIC 140: POPULAR MUSIC
Fall 2021

Instructor: Simon Wood
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Course Objective: Music 140 is an introduction to western popular music. The course will briefly introduce the main precursors to this music before looking in depth at the important figures and styles from 1945 to the mid-1980s (depending on time). Various genres will be covered in an effort to show how trends in popular music change, and are in turn changed by, the historical movements of technology, economics, and demographics.

The material will be presented through a series of audio recordings supported by a class-notes outline, audio and video examples, along with a few things that can be found on YouTube.

Required Texts:
Covach, John. What’s That Sound: An Introduction to Rock and its History. 5th edition

Listening List: This course makes use of a set of songs that will be posted online. As music is the most significant element of this course, you will be tested on the content of the list. You are, therefore, strongly (and I really mean it!!) advised to listen to the songs on a regular basis. The songs can be found on the class site on Waterloo Learn.

Methods of Evaluation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term Test 1</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Tuesday October 5th – Open at 4:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Test 2</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Tuesday November 2nd – Open at 4:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Test 3</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Tuesday November 23rd – Open at 4:00 pm</td>
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<td>Term Test 4</td>
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<td>TBA-During the December Exam Period</td>
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Term Tests:
The tests will be in multiple-choice format and will be presented online through the Quiz section of the course webpage. The tests are NOT cumulative and will cover the preceding three weeks of class material (Test 1 covers weeks 1 to 3, Test 2 covers weeks 4 to 6, etc.). Each test should only require one hour to complete, but they will be available for two hours to allow for any accommodations as well as any technical issues. The tests will be open from 4:00 pm to 11:59 pm (Waterloo local time). The final quiz is during the August exam period, but it is NOT a cumulative exam. It will cover the final three weeks of class.

IF YOU MISS A TEST, PLEASE NOTIFY ME IMMEDIATELY.
Please note that all marks are final – adjustments or deferred tests will only be granted in the case of documented illness or family emergency.

Web Page: Clearly this course will make use of a WATERLOO LEARN website. You know this because you are reading this. There will be NO brown M&M chocolates in the backstage area. In fact, the whole thing is on the web page. Please note that I tend to post all content, grades, etc. in the ‘Content’ section of the web page.

The general Faculty and University policy:

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals.

Other sources of information for students:

Academic Integrity website (Arts)

Academic Integrity Office (UWaterloo)

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Note for students with disabilities: The AccessAbility Services office, located in Needles Hall Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

Covid 19: For this term, all course activity will take place online. Therefore, any changes to on-campus activity due to Covid 19 should not have any impact on the course delivery and evaluations. However, for those who seek more information on policies regarding Covid 19 should consult the University’s Covid Information Page.
Course Outline:

1. **(Pre)History-1:** American Popular Music (1850 – 1945).
   Parlour Songs, Tin Pan Alley.

2. **(Pre)History-2:** African Roots
   Work Songs, Blues.
   Readings: Introduction, Chapter 1.

3. **The Development of Rock and Roll.**
   Impact of technology; “Black-Appeal radio; “Cover versions.”
   Readings: Chapter 2, 75-88

   Elvis, Chuck Berry.
   Readings: Chapter 2, 88-110.

5. **The “In-between” Years. (1959-1963)**
   Payola; American Bandstand; Dance Crazes; Folk Revival; The Brill Building; New Technology; Surf Music.
   Readings: Chapter 3.

6. **The ‘60s, Part 1: The British Invasion**
   America after Kennedy.
   The Beatles, British Blues, The Rolling Stones,
   Readings: Chapter 4.

7. **The 60’s, Part 2: Motown, Soul to Funk**
   Music as Industrial Product; Civil Rights; The Re-Africanization of music and culture.
   The Supremes, Otis Redding, Aretha Franklin, James Brown
   Readings: Chapter 6.

8. **The 60’s, Part 3: The Road to Woodstock**
   Folk revival; Counterculture; Acid Rock/Psychedelic Blues’ Woodstock/Altamont
   Bob Dylan, The Grateful Dead, Jimi Hendrix
   Readings: Chapter 5, Chapter 7.

9. **Art Rock, and Rock to Metal.**
   The rise of the Stadium Concert; Guitar Culture.
   Deep Purple, Led Zeppelin, Black Sabbath.
   Readings: Chapter 8. Chapter 10, 367-381

10. **Voices from the Margin.**
    Punk to New Wave: the Rise and Fall of Disco
    The Velvet Underground, The Sex Pistols, Chic.
    Readings: Chapter 9. Chapter 10, 381-400

11. **Hip Hop Culture.**
    Precursors; Early Figures; Political Sounds; Crossover.
    The Last Poets, Kool Herc, Sugar Hill Gang, Grand Master Flash, Public, Enemy, Run DMC.
    Readings: Chapter 12, 448-457

12. **Twelve: Pop goes the Eighties. (TIME PERMITTING)**
    MTV and the Video; Hard Rock goes commercial; Live Aid; Censorship
    Michael Jackson, Madonna
    Readings: Chapter 11.