

University of Waterloo: Conrad Grebel College

MUSIC 140: POPULAR MUSIC

Spring 2019

Evening Section

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.

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:

| Assessment | Weighting | Date |
|-------------------|-----------|--|
| Term Test I | 25% | Thursday June 6 th at 7:00 pm |
| Term Test II | 30% | Thursday July 4 th at 7:00 pm |
| Final Examination | 45% | TBA during the August Exam Period |

Term Test:

The tests will be in multiple-choice format, and will include several listening examples taken from the listening list. Students will be played short excerpts and asked to identify several of the following: artist, title, date, style, important characteristics, historical significance, etc...

Deferrals and Make-Up Tests or other accommodations will be arranged for the WEEK FOLLOWING THE ORIGINAL DATE, provided that the student submits acceptable, official documentation stating the reasons for their inability to write at the appointed time. IF YOU MISS A TEST, PLEASE NOTIFY ME IMMEDIATELY.

Final Examination: The final examination will be held in during the AUGUST exam period. This test will also be multiple-choice in format. **Students are warned that travel arrangements should not be made until the exam date is posted, as no deferred exams will be granted for anything other than documented health or family emergencies.**

Please note that all marks are final – adjustments or deferred test/examinations will only be granted in the case of documented illness or family emergency.

Web Page: This course will make use of a WATERLOO LEARN website. This site will provide general information for the course, study guides and grades for term tests. Important announcements such as the cancellation of class due to illness will also be posted there, so please try to check the site before each class, just in case.

Please Note: While the class is too large to take attendance each week, lectures are considered MANDATORY.

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.

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
- 4. Rockabilly, and the Golden Age of Rock’n’Roll. (1954-1959)**
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.