

University of Waterloo: Conrad Grebel College

MUSIC 140: POPULAR MUSIC

Winter 2025

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 early 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. 6th edition (\$63.64)

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 1	25%	Tuesday February 4 th at 7:00 pm
Term Test 2	25%	Tuesday March 4 th at 7:00 pm
Examination	50%	TBA-During the April Exam Period

Term Tests:

The tests will be in multiple-choice format. The tests and the exam are NOT cumulative. The duration of the term tests is 50 minutes. The duration of the final exam is 2.5 hours. **IF YOU MISS A TEST, SUBMIT YOUR VIF TO YOUR DEPARTMENT AND PLEASE NOTIFY ME IMMEDIATELY.**

Deferred tests will be written one week after the original test date.

NOTE: During tests and exams students may not have any type of smart electronic device in their possession (including, but not limited to phones, smart watches, etc.) These devices must be placed in your book bags and left at the front of the testing room. Students who are found to have such a device in their possession during a test or exam may face academic penalty.

Illness: This class will follow the Faculty of Arts policy on Accommodations for Illness or Extenuating Circumstances. **If you become ill and are unable to attend class, please ensure that you upload your VIF (Verification of Illness Form) to your department's webpage.** Do not send your VIF to me. Deferred tests will NOT be granted without the submission of a VIF. If a student misses an in-person lecture due to illness, they should acquire a copy of the class notes from a classmate, review the notes, then come and see me to review any aspects of the lecture that are not clear.

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. There will be no brown M&Ms in the backstage area. 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.

COVID-19: For those who seek more information on policies regarding COVID-19 should consult the University's COVID-19 Information Page: <https://uwaterloo.ca/coronavirus/>

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 Road to Rock and Roll.**
Impact of technology; Radio and Records; Rhythm and Blues
Readings: Chapter 2, 75-87
4. **Rockabilly, and the Golden Age of Rock'n'Roll. Part 1 (1954-1959)**
Cover Versions, Rock 'n' Roll, Elvis Presley (Part 1).
Readings: Chapter 2, 88-110.

- 5. The Golden Age of Rock 'n' Roll, Part 2**
Elvis Presley (Part 2) Chuck Berry, The Civil Rights Movement, The end of the Golden Age.
- 6. The "In-between" Years. (1959-1963)**
Payola; American Bandstand; Dance Crazes; The Brill Building; New Technology; Surf Music.
Readings: Chapter 3.
- 7. The British Invasion, Part 1**
America after Kennedy. The Beatles, Part 1
Readings: Chapter 4 (153-171)
- 8. The British Invasion, Part 2**
The Beatles, Part 2, The Rolling Stones
Readings: Chapter 4 (171-188), Chapter 7 (251-262)
- 9. Soul and Funk**
Motown and Stax.
The Supremes, Otis Redding, Aretha Franklin, James Brown
Readings: Chapter 6.
- 10. 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 (262-end).
- 11. Hard Rock – Punk Rock.**
Deep Purple, Led Zeppelin, Black Sabbath, Velvet Underground, The Ramones, The Sex Pistols
Readings: Chapter 8(291-318), Chapter 10 (379-397)
- 12. Disco / The Origins of Hip Hop**
The Village People, Chic, The Sugar Hill Gang, Run DMC / Aerosmith
Readings: Chapter 9 (356-363), Chapter 12, (445-455) (Skip "What's That Source" top of 446-447)