Music 2252: The History of Rock & Roll  
The Ohio State University  
Spring 2012  
Hughes Hall 100  
Wed., Fri.: 12:45-2:05

Instructor: Dr. Nicholas Johnson, johnson.3178@osu.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday, Friday, 2:05-3:05, Wexner Center Café

Course Description and Objectives

This course provides a survey of the history of rock-and-roll. It combines a review of musical elements (such as sound, form, harmony, melody, and rhythm) with an investigation of American history, culture, and politics. Our starting point will be root music like blues and country. From there, we will explore rock music using a broad definition encompassing both the mainstream rock and related genres.

GE Credit for Visual and Performing Arts

Goals:
Students evaluate significant works of art in order to develop capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgment; interpretation and evaluation; critical listening, reading, seeing, thinking, and writing; and experiencing the arts and reflecting on that experience.

Expected Learning Outcomes:
1. Students analyze, appreciate, and interpret significant works of art.
2. Students engage in informed observation and/or active participation in a discipline within the visual, spatial, and performing arts.

Textbooks and Materials


A list of required listening examples will be provided, as well as playlists on Spotify of most of the course material. Students may opt to purchase examples online through iTunes, Amazon, or other retailers, or can find many of them in the music library at Ohio State. Examples not appearing on Spotify will be uploaded to the Carmen Website and may only be accessed there by enrolled students.

Course Website and OSU e-mail

Course materials (syllabus, project guides, lecture notes, assignments, etc.) will be available via http://carmen.osu.edu/. Plan on checking your OSU e-mail and the class website regularly. Updates, reminders, and other messages will be communicated through both mediums.
**Academic Misconduct**

Students are expected to read the Code of Student Conduct ([http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/pdfs/csc_12-31-07.pdf](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/pdfs/csc_12-31-07.pdf)), which contains information on Academic Misconduct and the consequences of prohibited conduct. In general, Academic Misconduct is defined as: "Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the university, or subvert the educational process (CSC, p.2)." Further details can be found in the CSC. Plagiarism is not the only form of Academic Misconduct, but it is the most common violation. According the the CSC: "Plagiarism is the representation of another's work or ideas as one's own; it includes the unacknowledged word-for-word use and/or paraphrasing of another person's work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person's ideas (p. 3)." Even the unintentional inappropriate use of other author's words and ideas constitutes plagiarism. Work that improperly copies, paraphrases, or cites the words of another author will result in the score of 0 for the assignment. Serious cases will be submitted to Judicial Procedures outlined in the CSC. All students are encouraged to review this website from Indiana University on recognizing and avoiding plagiarism: [http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml).

**Disability Services**

Necessary and reasonable measures to make this course accessible to all students will be made. If you require special assistance, please let me know in the first week of class. Be sure to let me know if you intend to take exams in the Office of Disability Services.

**Classroom Conduct**

The use of electronic devices to take notes during class is acceptable, but students must refrain from non-class related activities that are distracting or disrespectful (for example: texting, surfing the Internet, making phone calls, etc.).

**Assessment and Grading**

- Class Attendance and Participation (10%): Attendance in class is mandatory. Only absences for school-related activities will be excused. Absences due to medical and family emergencies will be excused if documentation is provided. Contact the teaching assistant for your recitation section for attendance issues. Students are expected to participate in discussions during recitation sections.

- Assignments (20%): Students will complete a musical biography and participate in three online discussion sessions.
• Exams (50%): Students will take three in-class exams, Exam 1 (15%), Exam 2 (15%), and a non-cumulative Final (20%)

• Final Project (20%): Students will complete a paper based on attending a concert of rock music. The paper should include an analysis of the concert experience and a contextualization of that experience within the music cultures and ideas discussed in class. A detailed rubric with further requirements will be provided.

**Grading scale**

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Minimum</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<td>E</td>
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**Recitation Sections**

Recitation sections are the chance to dive deeper into specific topics from the course. To that end, many sections are designated for specific discussions, with topics such as women in rock, race and popular music, and the fate of rock today. Most of these discussions will be prompted by short, required reading passages that will be posted on Carmen. Students are expected to have read the assignments before class, and arrive prepared to discuss.

**Class Schedule** (subject to change)

*note – italics indicates recitation section,

**Unit 1: The Birth of Rock**

Jan 9   Course Introduction  
        Basics of Music  

Jan 11  Blues and Roots music  

Jan 14  Recitation Introduction  
        Musical biography due  

Jan 16  Early Country Music  

Jan 18  Electric Blues  

Jan 21  Review of Musical Concepts, 12-bar blues  

Jan 23  R & B
Jan 25  Early Rock & Roll and the whitening of black music

Jan 28  Discussion – Race in Early Rock Music

Online Discussion 1 due – 11:59 pm

Jan 30  Early Rock & Roll

Feb 1  Rockabilly and Dick Clark

Feb 4  Exam Review

Feb 6  Exam 1

Unit 2: The Maturation (and decline?) of Rock and Soul Music

Feb 8  Girl Groups and Motown

Feb 11  Discussion – “He Hit Me” – Women in early pop

Feb 13  The Beatles

Feb 15  Bob Dylan

Feb 18  Discussion – Rockism

Feb 20  The Rolling Stones and British Blues

Feb 22  Psychedelic Rock

Feb 25  Discussion – A question of influence: Beatles vs. Dylan vs. The Rolling Stones

Online Discussion 2 due: 11:59 pm

Feb 27  Jimi Hendrix and Early Metal

Mar 1  James Brown and the Soul/Funk divide

Mar 4  Concept Reviews and Reggae

Mar 6  Glam and Prog Rock of the 1970s

Mar 8  Funk and Disco in the 1970s

Mar 11 – 15  Spring Break

Mar 18  Exam Review
Mar 20  Exam 2

Unit 3: The Rebirth of Rock and the Explosion of Hip-Hop

Mar 22  Punk Rock and the only band that matters
Mar 25  70s Country Rock and the Lost Generation
Mar 27  New Wave and 80s Techno-pop
Mar 29  MTV and the Megastar
April 1  Discussion – Women in popular music today
April 3  The Birth of Hip-Hop
April 5  80s Heavy Metal
April 8  Discussion – Race and popular music today
        Online Discussion 3 due: 11:59 pm
April 10 Alternative and College Rock in the 80s and 90s
April 12 Grunge and Rock 90s-00s
April 15 Discussion – What the hell happened? Is rock dead?
April 17 Hip-Hop Nation
April 19 A Conglomeration of Styles: Rock Today
April 22 Final Review

Final Exam:
April 25, 12:00 – 1:45
(Final Exam only covers material from Unit 3)