

Sam Houston State University - School of Music
Course Syllabus

Course: MUS 264 (3 credit hours)
Semester: Summer I semester, 2008
Classroom: Recital Hall
Meeting Times: Mon-Tue-Wed-Thu: 10:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.

Instructor: Dr. Scott D. Plugge
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Office: Room 225E, Fine Arts Building
Email: plugge@shsu.edu
Office Hours: Anytime via email or by appointment

DESCRIPTION

A survey of the various styles comprising American popular music from the early 20th century to the present. Identifies the basic elements of music; these features are illustrated by recorded selections. Forces behind the development of important popular music styles are also covered.

OBJECTIVES

This course will provide the student with an opportunity to...

- * become familiar with the sound of the many variants that are grouped under the heading "rock & roll"
- * develop the ability to "LISTEN" (not just "hear") when participating in the musical experience; learn to aurally discriminate between various musical elements
- * acquire a musical vocabulary that will enable concise, intellectual discussion about any music
- * learn about individuals integral to the evolution of rock music(e.g., composers, performers, etc.), circumstances surrounding their lives, and style elements common to the various sub-genres
- * gain a historical perspective including listening to and discussing primary influences on the emergence of rock (musical , social, and aesthetic), as well as that of popular music and jazz
- * identify musical examples from repertoire covered in this course to illustrate the various concepts presented and discussed in class
- * gain a clearer understanding of one's own current musical preferences and the basis for this selection

TEXTBOOK and MATERIALS

Stuessy, Joe & Lipscomb, Scott (2003). Rock and Roll: Its History and Stylistic Development, 6th edition. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

Scantron Form 882-ES (or 882-E). You will need several for tests.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Exams:

There will be 4 exams. Each exam is scantron type test.

Make-Up Exams: It is expected that all students will be in attendance during the regularly given tests. It is understandable that, on occasion, circumstances may prevent a student from being in attendance. Make-up tests will only be given with just cause. All make-up tests are essay tests (i.e., not scantron).

To request a make-up test, the student must:

- [1] submit a written request to the instructor, providing the reason for the make-up test;
- [2] attach appropriate documentation

If the request is granted, the student must make-up the test within one week of the original test date. (Sleeping late, not being aware of a test, or not prepared to be tested are NOT reasons for a make-up test.). Make-ups will not be given for daily quizzes.

Assignments:

Students will be assigned:

- 1) specific readings from the book
- 2) listening assignments in the Newton Gresham Music Listening Lab(the Listening Lab is located on the 4th floor of the Newton Gresham Library)
 - students must listen to the assigned listening examples.
 - Students are NOT required to go to the listening lab for these assignments.
 - Students may complete the listening assignments anywhere, provided they have access to the specific recordings listed for the assignment.
- 3) Frequent readings assignments from hand-outs or internet-based articles

Grading Plan:

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

Grading Scale: 100 point scale:

- Exam #1: 25%
- Exam #2: 25%
- Exam #3: 25%
- Exam #4: 25% (Final)
- No extra credit is allowed or given
- Any student that does not complete a test will be given a zero (0) for that exam.
- If a student detects a problem with an exam grade, then that student should ask the instructor to check your test

ATTENDANCE

Regular and punctual attendance is expected for this class.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The Faculty Handbook states that the University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Furthermore, the University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

In regards to testing, any student that talks during an exam, looks onto another students paper, or circumvents the testing rules and regulations will be given a zero for the exam.

PROPER CLASSROOM DEMEANOR/RULES OF CONDUCT

"Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Please turn off or mute your cellular phone and/or pager before class begins. Students are prohibited from making offensive remarks, sleeping, talking among each other at inappropriate times, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a, minimally, a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy."

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM

"Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom."

COURSE OUTLINE

A copy of the course outline has been provided. **THIS IS A TENTATIVE OUTLINE.** Changes to this outline will be announced in class. Students are responsible for knowing all announced changes.