

Course Syllabus
Chaminade University of Honolulu

History 407: History of Rock'n'Roll
Dr. Yamasaki

Course Description

Hearing music transports you back to a particular place and time. It is one marker by which you see the patterns of your life. At the same time, music is a social barometer. It is shaped by and helps to shape the society which produced it. This is especially true with rock'n'roll, which is more attitude than genre.

This course uses rock'n'roll to examine the political, social, economic and cultural history of post-World War II America. In this way, it is hoped that you will gain a fuller understanding of the society that shaped you and the music that you are drawn to.

Course Objectives: After successfully completing this course, you will have ...

- a working knowledge of the history of rock'n'roll and the society that shaped it.
- refined your reading, writing, speaking & cognitive skills.
- engaged in learning that embodies cooperation, self-discipline & mutual respect.
- developed your concern for social justice, ethics & civic responsibility.

Course Requirements

- Regularly attend & actively participate in class meetings.
- Turn in short writing assignments. (No late paper will be accepted for any reason).
- Take two mid-term examinations.
- Take a final examination.

Grades

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| • Class attendance, discussions, short writing assignments | 100 points. |
| • Mid-term examination | 100 points |
| • Final examination | 100 points |

275-300 points = A; 245-279 = B; 210-244 = C; 180-209 = D; Below 180 = F.

Texts

Anthony DeCurtis & James Henke (eds), *Rolling Stone Illustrated History of Rock & Roll*
 Mitch Yamasaki, *History 407: History of Rock'n'Roll (Course Pack)*

Course Outline

- Week 1-3: Roots of Rock'n'Roll:
(1) African American Experience
(2) Post-World War II Economic Boom & Birth of the Teenager
(3) Southern Roots
- Week 4: Doo Wop & Girl Groups / Music Industry / Songwriters & Producers
- Week 5-6: Folk Music & Folk Rock
- Week 7-8: Beatles & the British Invasion
- Week 8: **Mid-term Examination**
- Week 9: Motown & Soul
- Week 10: Blues Revival & Heavy Metal
- Week 11-12: Music and Culture of the late Sixties
- Week 13: Post Sixties Trends:
(1) Country Roots
(2) Singer-Song-Writers
(3) Performance Rock
(4) Disco
- Week 14-15: Punk, Rap & MTV
- Week 16: **Final Examination**

Office Hours

Eiben Annex B

Days & Times: Tues & Thurs 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM; Wed 1:00 – 2:00 PM
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