

Course Outline: History of Rock Music

A survey of rock music covering key figures that helped shape rock and roll from its infancy through the 1970s. Class sessions include original song recordings, video clips, documentaries, and class discussions of concurrent events in American history. There are also hands-on activities that help bring to life the technology and style of the eras studied. Students will be challenged to look beyond the surface of the music and make connections between past and present events. History of Rock Music is open to any BCA student. No prerequisites.

Unit Objectives

1950s

- Blues: origins, R&B
- Early rock, doo-wop, rockabilly
- Promoters, DJs
- Ed Sullivan and television
- Teenager consumers, teen idols

1960s

- Girl groups, surf rock
- Folk revival, protest, folk rock
- British Invasion
- Motown
- Summer of Love and Woodstock

1970s

- Country music
- Country rock
- Soul music
- birth of heavy metal and glam rock
- New wave and punk rock

Hands-on activities: slap (rockabilly) bass, making a record player, playing records, using a transistor radio, toys/games of the time period, using a rotary phone, making a speaker, music production, rock beat on the drum set, verse composition, using guitar effects, observing decibels, playing “Smoke on the Water”.

Grading, Assessment and Course Responsibilities

Grades are based on the average of all class sessions. Points are awarded based on assessment for *preparation, participation, assessment, attendance* and *team work*- because they foster responsible adult practices.

A = 93 -100 A- = 90 – 92 B+ = 87 - 89 B = 83 - 86 B- = 80 - 82 C+ = 77 - 79 C = 73 - 76
C- = 70 - 72 D+ = 63 - 69 D = 60 - 62 F = 0 - 59

Preparation and Participation (approx. 85%)- Students who are present, prepared, and participate in class activities/discussions earn 4 points each class session (3 points if the course meets on a semester schedule). However, an *excused* absence can be made-up within one week by making an appointment to practice/review any missed material. An unprepared grade cannot be made up. Absences during the last week of the trimester must be made up within one school day after the trimester ends.

Assessment (approx. 15%)- Each student will have one music presentation (Google Slide). The presentation is worth 8 points when completed/presented in entirety. Students will only receive 6 points if submitted late, or a zero if not submitted/presented to class. However, a student with an *excused* absence on their presentation day may present the assignment for full credit during the next class session.

Attendance: Being proactive about attendance is essential to personal accountability and musical progress. Therefore, it is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor of any missed sessions and initiate a make-up, as described above. Lateness is not excused unless accompanied by a teacher’s note. Otherwise, students will have 1 point deducted from their session grade every 3 minutes. Cutting class has a negative impact on everyone and is not tolerated. Students who cut class or have an unexcused absence lose full credit for that session and their “good standing” status for the academic year, which makes them ineligible for the music honor society, honors ensemble participation, and possibly the privilege to participate in future music electives and activities.

Consistent attendance is crucial to keeping up with the coursework and overall academic success. Frequent absences (over 10%) can impact your academic performance in this course. Students who exceed 10% of absences will remain in the course. However, the student will receive a grade of “Incomplete” until credit recovery is completed in the summer.

Team Work: Students are expected to cooperate with each other and maintain a positive attitude- especially in areas concerning *safety, trust, and mutual respect*.