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# TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY - COMMERCE



**MUS 1310-03W**  
**History of Rock and Roll**  
Online Course  
Fall 2023

## **Instructor Information**

Jonathan Passmore  
Jonathan.Passmore@tamuc.edu  
Office Hours: Only on Zoom by  
appointment

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## **Course Description**

This course will provide opportunities for students to develop and broaden their familiarity with, and understanding of, Rock and Roll and other forms of American popular music. Students will be guided through aural/visual experiences, and a variety of homework assignments to allow for an increased knowledge of American popular music, its heritage, and its musical characteristics, as well as its social and historical context. This course is designed for students not planning to major in music; no previous musical training is required.

### **The objectives of this course are to:**

- Present ways of listening to and thinking about rock music from a variety of decades, subgenres, and cultures.
- Promote social and cultural understanding through musical knowledge.
- Reveal music's relationship to the individual and to the human condition.
- Encourage self-reflection and critical thinking through written or verbal projects.

### **Online Course – No Assigned Meeting Times:**

- This course is 100% online and does not have any scheduled meeting times. However, there will be weekly opportunities for “live” office hours via Zoom. The course requires regular access to the internet, in order to access course materials, assignments, meeting links, and other materials.
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## **Course Materials**

### **Textbook (only as hard-copy available):**

Covach, John and Andrew Flory. *What's that Sound: An Introduction to Rock and Its History*. 5<sup>th</sup> edition. New York: Norton, 2018. - ISBN: 9780393624144

- o Purchase or rent the book at TAMUC's Bookstore. See the following link:  
<https://www.amcbookstore.com/CourseMaterials?ids=7613739,7656656&search=What%27s%20that%20sound?>

### **Musical Examples (Sound Files)**

- Audio and Video examples are available on the D2L site (Playlists via YouTube, Spotify, or other accessible weblinks).

### **D2L/Brightspace**

- Our entire course is available on D2L. You have access to the book, audio, video, and assignments through this page. Please use it early and often.

### **Required Technology, Communication, and Online Learning Tool:**

- Use of our course shell on myLeo (D2L)
- Use of campus email
- Use of Zoom, Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, or other necessary software
- Reliable access to internet and access to PC or Laptop (phones and tablets are not always reliable for submitting assignments on D2L)

### **Instructional Materials and Methods**

- Weekly, you will find an overview page on D2L. Here there will be a short summary, sometimes a brief video, and a list of your assignments, linked to the assignment pages, and any required or recommended listening (playlists).
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### **Attendance and Participation**

- Our course is 100% online with no assigned Zoom class meeting times. Therefore, there is no "Attendance Policy."
  - You need to participate in the course through the assignments and accessing the resources in a timely manner.
    - o You can work ahead in a limited fashion.
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## **Assignment and Grading Break Down:**

Weekly Quizzes (30%): Throughout this course, you will have regular, short quizzes, to build up vocabulary and key concepts. They can include multiple choice, short answer, or audio examples. They are timed, 30 minutes, and you will get 2 attempts (keeping the highest score).

- 15 chapter quizzes for credit.
  - Due by Sundays at 11:59pm CST

Discussion Board Posts/Responses (15%): An integral part of this course is interacting with your classmates. You will have weekly discussion board prompts to answer, and subsequently comment on or critique posts by 2 other group members. Details provided in the assignment page. You will be graded on your post.

- 5 discussion board posts and 10 responses
  - Initial post: Due by Fridays at 11:59pm CST
  - 2 response: Due by Sundays at 11: 59pm CST

Listening Journals (30%): The goal of listening journals is two-fold: to build on listening habits and practices the student already has, but also to expand and grow active listening skills. Students will write about 1 piece of their own choosing, and 1 instructor guided choice, each relating to the week's themes. Each assignment will build upon skills, terminology, cultural context, and critical thinking skills examined in the chapter and module.

- 2 total, Due by Sundays at 11:59pm CST

Essays – 1 written (25%): The goal of the essay is to extend your engagement with music and different cultural contexts in written, audio formats. You will utilize research, writing, presentation, and critical thinking skills.

- Due by FRIDAY on finals week at 11:59pm CST

\*You will receive detailed instruction for each assignment in a timely manner.

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## **Policy on Late Work**

All the assignments should be submitted before the deadlines. The students should dedicate the required time to study and submit the assignments on a timely manner. Late submissions will only be accepted as exceptions, with the prior notice to the instructor and proper documentation. For example, if you need to miss a deadline because of an illness, obtain a note from your physician and send it to your instructor. Please remember that the deadlines will be strictly tracked.

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## **Grading**

### **University Grading Scale**

**A:100-90    B: 89.99-80    C: 79.99-70    D: 69.99-60    F:59.99 and below.**

### **Description of Grading Scale**

A - Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.

B - Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.

C - Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.

D - Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements. F - represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the Instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I (see also I).

I - (Incomplete) Assigned at the discretion of the Instructor when, due to extraordinary circumstances, e.g., hospitalization, a student is prevented from completing the work of the course on time. Requires a written agreement between Instructor and student.

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## **Course Communications and Grading**

### **Email Responses**

- Between Monday and Friday I will respond to your email within 24 hours, normally between 8am-6pm. During the weekends, I will take a technology break and will not be able to reply to your emails. If you email me during the weekend, please expect to receive the answer by the end of the day on the following Monday. Please read the netiquette guidelines: <https://www.tamtu.edu/distance/students/netiquette.shtml>, as well as <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>.
  - Questions about grades or personal issues, must be emailed to the instructor through the D2L interface or campus email. Carefully select the people you wish to message as you do not want to send a message about a private matter to the entire class. Always, consult the syllabus to see if your questions has already been answered there.
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## COURSE SCHEDULE

\*This syllabus, including the course schedule, is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

### ***Week 1***

Follow all instructions in welcome/orientation video.

**Read:** *Introduction: Studying Rock*

*Chapter 1: The World Before Rock and Roll*

**Listen and Watch:** See D2L for pieces and videos

**Assignments:** None

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### ***Week 2***

**Read:** *Chapter 2: The Birth and First Flourishing of Rock and Roll*

**Listen and Watch:** See D2L for pieces and videos

**Assignments:** Quiz 1 & Quiz 2

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### ***Week 3***

**Read:** *Chapter 3: The Demise of Rock and the Promise of Soul*

**Listen and Watch:** See D2L for pieces and videos

**Assignments:** Quiz 3, Discussion Board Post 1

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### ***Week 4***

**Read:** *Chapter 4: The Beatles and The British Invasion*

**Listen and Watch:** See D2L for pieces and videos

**Assignments:** Quiz 4, Discussion Board Post 2

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### ***Week 5***

**Read:** *Chapter 5: American Responses*

**Listen and Watch:** See D2L for pieces and videos

**Assignments:** Quiz 5, Listening Journal 1

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### ***Week 6***

**Read:** *Chapter 6: Motown Pop and Southern Soul*

**Listen and Watch:** See D2L for pieces and videos

**Assignments:** Quiz 6, Discussion Board Post 3

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### ***Week 7***

**Read:** *Chapter 7: Psychedelia*

**Listen and Watch:** See D2L for pieces and videos

**Assignments:** Quiz 7

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### ***Week 8***

**Read:** *Chapter 8: The Growing Rock Monster*

**Listen and Watch:** See D2L for pieces and videos

**Assignments:** Quiz 8, Essay 1 (Written Essay)

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## ***Week 9***

**Assignments:** None

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## ***Week 10***

**Read:** *Chapter 9: Black Pop, Reggae, and the Rise of Disco*

**Listen and Watch:** See D2L for pieces and videos

**Assignments:** Quiz 9

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## ***Week 11***

**Read:** *Chapter 10: Mainstream Rock, Punk, and New Wave*

**Listen and Watch:** See D2L for pieces and videos

**Assignments:** Quiz 10, Discussion Board Post 4

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## ***Week 12***

**Read:** *Chapter 11: I Want my MTV*

**Listen and Watch:** See D2L for pieces and videos

**Assignments:** Quiz 11, Listening Journal 2

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## ***Week 13***

**Read:** *Chapter 12: Heavy Metal, Rap, and Indie Rock*

**Listen and Watch:** See D2L for pieces and videos

**Assignments:** Quiz 12, Discussion Board Post 5

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## ***Week 14 (Thanksgiving, Assignments subject to change)***

**Read:** *Chapter 13: Alternative Rock and Rock Alternative*

**Listen and Watch:** See D2L for pieces and videos

**Assignments:** Quiz 13

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## ***Week 15***

**Read:** *Chapter 14: Widening Gaps*

**Listen and Watch:** See D2L for pieces and videos

**Assignments:** Quiz 14

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## ***Week 16***

**Read:** *Chapter 15: Rock Traditions and The Business of Change*

**Listen and Watch:** See D2L for pieces and videos

**Assignments:** Quiz 15

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## ***Finals Week - Week 17***

**Assignments:** Essay 2 (Audio Essay)

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## **University Specific Procedures and Policies**

### **A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health statement**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel).

### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>.

### **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

#### [Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

#### [Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

### **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.