



SCHOOL OF  
**Music**

**MUS 1310 01H**  
**History of Rock and Roll**  
**Course Syllabus: Spring 2026**

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## Instructor Information

Instructor:	Dr. Jessica Stearns
Classroom Location:	Music Building Rm. 158, MWF 10:00 am-10:50 am
Office Location:	Music Building Rm. 220
Office Hours:	MW 1:00 pm-3:00 pm; F 11:00 am-12:00 pm
University E-mail:	Jessica.Stearns@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication:	Email
Communication Response Time:	24 hours

## Course Information

### 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 outside reading assignments, class discussion, aural/visual experiences, and written assignments to allow for an increased understanding of American popular music, its heritage, and its social and historical context.

### Student Learning Outcomes

Graduating students will be able to demonstrate synthesis of varied performance practices of Western Music and the music of other cultures from the ancient civilizations to the present period.

In this course, students will:

- Analyze elements of rock music using appropriate vocabulary.
- Demonstrate a knowledge of the origins of rock and rock subgenres.
- Identify connections between rock music and its social and historical contexts.

### Required Textbook

Covach, John and Andrew Flory. *What's that Sound: An Introduction to Rock and Its History* 6th edition. New York: Norton, 2023.

## Course Requirements

### Instructional Methods

Students will follow outlined activities for each week that include in-person lectures, listening examples, readings, class discussions, and other assessments.

## Assessments

**Listening Exercises:** There will be 12 Listening Exercises over the course of the semester. For these activities, students will submit written analyses describing pertinent musical aspects of works played in class. Dates of the Listening Exercises will not be announced ahead of time. The only way to earn points for a Listening Exercise is to be in the classroom for the entire class period on the day that an activity takes place. These assignments cannot be made up for any reason. For each activity, you will earn 15 points toward your final grade. You can thus miss 2 Listening Exercises and still earn full points in this category. If you are present for all 12 Listening Exercises, you may earn up to 180 points in this category (30 points of extra credit). I reserve the right to change Listening Exercises to graded pop quizzes if it becomes evident that students are not preparing for class or are not participating.

**Quizzes:** Over the course of the semester there will be 6 quizzes in D2L covering concepts from class materials.

**Album Review:** Students will write an essay reviewing a rock album of their choice.

**Workshop Preparation:** There will be 5 in-class workshops throughout the semester aimed at helping students develop parts of their Podcast Episode. Students will submit responses to the readings and activities required before the workshop for a grade.

**Group Contract:** Students will create a group contract outlining how the work will be distributed among the students, a plan for communicating about the project and scheduling any meetings outside of class, and agreeing on the topic of their episode.

**Bibliography:** Students will submit a bibliography for their Podcast Episode of appropriate academic sources with proper citations in Chicago Manual Style.

**Podcast Episode Outline:** After initial research, students will submit an outline of their Podcast Episode, which will include the sections each student will record.

**Podcast Episode Script:** Students will submit a full draft of their Podcast Episode.

**Podcast Episode Recording:** Students will record their Podcast Episode in the KETR studios and submit a polished, professional recording which will be available on the KETR website.

## Grading

Listening Exercises	150
Quizzes	240
Album Review	75
Workshop Preparation	125
Group Contract	35
Bibliography	75
Podcast Episode Outline	75
Podcast Episode Script	75
Podcast Episode Recording	150
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>

**A=900-1000 B=800-899 C=700-799 D=600-699 F=Below 600**

## Course and University Procedures / Policies

### Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance

### Attendance Policy

Attending class regularly is the responsibility of each student and is expected. Please keep in mind that I will not post PowerPoint slides and missed Listening Exercises cannot be made up. Although you will not be penalized for missing typical class days,\* I will keep a record (via sign-in sheet) of which students have attended. I am always happy to answer questions about class material for students who have been in class, but I will not re-teach material to students who have not been in class (limited exceptions may be made for students who provide documentation for truly unavoidable absences). I reserve the right to institute an attendance policy if I think attendance and/or tardiness is becoming a problem.

*\*Attendance for Workshops, KETR Tour, Recording Sessions, and Editing for the Podcast Project is crucial, and absences may result in severe grade penalties*

### Late Assignments or Work

Assignments (Album Review and Virtual Rock Festival) submitted within one week of the deadline will incur a 50% penalty. No assignments will be accepted beyond one week after the deadline. Quizzes must be completed by the End Date listed in D2L. Quizzes will only be reopened at the discretion of the instructor and only in extreme cases with documentation.

## Classroom Etiquette

As a courtesy to me and to your classmates, you should plan to arrive on time for class and to remain in the classroom for the entire class period. It is very distracting when students leave and enter the classroom during a lecture. Students who consistently arrive late, depart early, or leave and reenter the classroom without serious reason may lose Listening Exercise points.

Although the format of this class is mainly lecture, I expect students to answer questions and engage in discussion about the assigned materials. I strongly encourage every student to participate actively. You are by no means required to like all of the music assigned in this course or to agree with the views expressed by the artists we will be studying. You are, however, expected to be thoughtful and courteous in expressing your opinions and in responding to those of your classmates. Students are expected to be attentive and refrain from doing work for other courses during class. If I must ask you to stop doing work for other classes more than once in a class period, you may lose Listening Exercise points.

## Electronic Devices

Students may use laptops or tablets to take notes during lectures. The use of cell phones is prohibited. Please silence and put away (completely out of sight) your cell phone. If I notice you using your cell phone, I will ask you to put it away. If I must ask you to do so more than once in a class period, you may lose Listening Exercise points.

Students may not record lectures or take pictures of PowerPoint slides without my consent.

## Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University 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](#)

## AI Use in Course (University Statement)

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

### **AI Use in Course (Instructor Statement)**

As an instructor, I recognize the potential of AI as a useful tool to aid learning, create content, and refine writing skills. However, I will not utilize AI to generate course materials or provide feedback to students. In this class, students are permitted to incorporate AI (including Grammarly) into assignments only when explicitly instructed to do so. Any other use of AI on assignments or exams will be deemed as academic dishonesty.

### **School of Music Mission Statement**

The School of Music at East Texas A&M University promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

### **University Mission Statement**

East Texas A&M University provides a personal educational experience for a diverse community of life-long learners. Our purpose is to discover and disseminate knowledge for leadership and service in an interconnected and dynamic world. Our challenge is to nurture partnerships for the intellectual, cultural, social, and economic vitality of Texas and beyond

### **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, contact the Office of Student Disability Services at 903-886-5150, 903-886—5835; email [studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu); online at [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#); or in-person in Room 162 of the Velma K. Waters Library.

### **East Texas A&M University Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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)

### **Health and Wellness**

As an Institutional Member of the National Association of Schools of Music, East Texas State A&M University supports the Association's commitment to student health and wellness. The following web address provides links to information for resources related to physical and mental well-being, as well as assists in offering preventative measures that students can take to avoid serious and/or chronic conditions: [Musician Health and Safety - East Texas A&M University](#)

## East Texas A&M University 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>

## Tenets of Common Behavior

All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See current Student Guidebook)

## Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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

Campus Concealed Carry - Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedure s/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf> and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

## LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser

Support: [https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

[https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom\\_Account.aspx?source=universitysalmenu](https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universitysalmenu)

## Access and Navigation

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@etamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@etamu.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

### Communication and Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

### Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

## Course Calendar

<b>Week</b>	<b>Content</b>
Week 1: 1/12-1/16	Mon: Course Introductions; Introduction to Musical Terms R: None Wed: The World Before Rock and Roll R: pp. 35-56 Fri: Regional Styles R: pp. 57-73
Week 2: 1/19-1/23	Mon: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, No Class Wed: The Birth of Rock and Roll R: pp. 75-96 Fri: Rockabilly R: pp. 96-110 <b>Quiz 1 due</b>
Week 3: 1/26-1/30	Mon: Splitting up the Market and Rise of Producers R: pp. 113-135 Wed: Soul and the late 1950s R: pp. 136-151 Fri: Beatlemania R: pp. 153-172 <b>Album Review Due</b>
Week 4: 2/2-2/6	Mon: British Invasion R: pp. 172-188 Wed: American Responses; Rock on the West Coast R: pp. 191-206 Fri: Rock on the East Coast; Garage Bands and TV Rock R: pp. 206-216 <b>Quiz 2 due</b>

<b>Week</b>	<b>Content</b>
Week 5: 2/9-2/13	Mon: Motown R: pp. 219-229 Wed: R&B and Soul R: pp. 230-247 Fri: Psychedelia; The San Francisco Scene R: pp. 251-271
Week 6: 2/16-2/20	Mon: Psychedelia in London, Los Angeles, and New York; Woodstock R: pp. 271-289 Wed: New Directions in the 1970s R: pp. 291-309 Fri: The Growing Rock Monster R: pp. 309-333 <b>Quiz 3 due</b>
Week 7: 2/23-2/27	Mon: Black Pop R: pp. 335-348 Wed: Soul, Reggae, and Disco R: pp. 348-363 Fri: Project Workshop—Getting Started <b>Group Contract due</b>
Week 8: 3/2-3/6	Mon: Mainstream Rock; Punk in the US R: pp. 365-383 Wed: Punk in the UK; New Wave R: pp. 383-397 Fri: Project Workshop—Sources and Where to Find Them <b>Quiz 4 due</b> <b>Bibliography due</b>
Week 9: 3/16-3/20	Mon: MTV R: pp. 399-419 Wed: The New Traditionalists R: pp. 420-432 Fri: Project Workshop—What is in a Music Podcast? <b>Episode Outline due</b>
Week 10: 3/23-3/27	Mon: Heavy Metal; The Emergence of Rap R: pp. 435-455 Wed: Punk and Indie Rock in the 1980s R: pp. 455-465 Fri: Project Workshop—Writing a Podcast Episode <b>Quiz 5 due</b> <b>Episode script due</b>
Week 11: 3/30-4/3	Mon: The 1990s and Alternative Rock R: pp. 467-480

<b>Week</b>	<b>Content</b>
	Wed: Metal Extensions and Indie Rock in a New Decade R: pp. 480-493 Fri: Project Workshop—Recording a Podcast
Week 12: 4/6-4/10	Mon: KETR Tour Wed: Recording Sessions Fri: Recording Sessions
Week 13: 4/13-4/17	Mon: Recording Sessions Wed: Recording Sessions Fri: Recording Sessions
Week 14: 4/20-4/24	Mon: Recording Sessions Wed: Editing (in Music Media Lab) Fri: Editing (in Music Media Lab) <b><i>Podcast Recording due</i></b>
Week 15: 4/27-5/1	Mon: Widening Gaps R: pp. 495-505 Wed: Feel-Good Rock; Female Singer-Songwriters R: pp. 505-513 Fri: Teen Idols and Beat-Based Pop R: pp. 513-526 <b><i>Quiz 6 due</i></b>
Final Exam	There is no Final Exam for this course