



SCHOOL OF
Music

MUS 1310 02W
History of Rock and Roll
Course Syllabus: Fall 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Dr. Chris A. Beaty
Office Location:	Music Building 218
Office Hours:	TBA & by appointment or Zoom
University E-mail:	chris.beaty@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication:	email
Communication Response Time:	24 hours, maybe longer on weekends & holidays

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

Student Learning Outcomes

Graduating students will apply appropriate criteria to interpret, classify and evaluate music of various cultures and time periods, in the appropriate historical and cultural context.

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 readings, discussions, quizzes, and assignments.

Assessments

Discussions: There will be 6 discussions requiring students to respond to prompts related to class topics.

Quizzes: Over the course of the semester there will be eight quizzes covering concepts from class materials.

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

Virtual Rock Festival: Students will create a virtual rock festival featuring artists and songs they consider to be the most significant in rock history.

Grading

Discussions	240
Quizzes	480
Album Review	120
Virtual Rock Festival	160
Total	1000

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

Because this is an online course, there is no attendance policy. It is the responsibility of each student to keep pace with the course and complete work on time.

Late Assignments or Work

Assignments submitted within one week of the deadline will incur a 50% penalty. No assignments will be accepted beyond one week after the deadline.

Online Etiquette

Students are expected to be thoughtful and courteous in expressing their opinions and in responding to those of their classmates.

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

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.

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; 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 <https://www.etamu.edu/counseling-center/>.

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/rulesProcedures/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 A&M-Commerce 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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universitymenu

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.

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

Week	Content
Week 1: August 20-28	Course Introduction Reading: pp. 3-34 Discussion 1 due
Week 2: August 31-Sep. 4	The World Before Rock and Roll Reading: pp. 35-73 Quiz 1 due
Week 3: Sep 7-11	The 1950s and the Birth of Rock and Roll Reading: pp. 75-110 Discussion 2 due
Week 4: September 14-18	The Demise of Rock and the Promise of Soul Reading: pp. 112-151 Quiz 2 due
Week 5: September 21-25	The 1960s and the British Invasion Reading: pp. 153-188

Week	Content
	<i>Album Review due</i>
Week 6: September 28-Oct. 2	American Responses and the Rise of Motown Reading: pp. 191-234 <i>Quiz 3 due</i>
Week 7: October 5-9	Southern Soul and Psychedelia Reading: pp. 234-289 <i>Discussion 3 due</i>
Week 8: October 12-16	The 1970s, the Growing Rock Monster, and Black Pop Reading: pp. 291-356 <i>Quiz 4 due</i>
Week 9: October 19-23	Disco, Mainstream Rock, Punk, and New Wave Reading: pp. 356-397 <i>Discussion 4 due</i>
Week 10: October 26-30	The 1980s and MTV Reading: pp. 399-432 <i>Quiz 5 due</i>
Week 11 November 2-6	Heavy Metal, Rap, and Indie Rock Reading: pp. 435-465 <i>Discussion 5 due</i>
Week 12: November 9-13	The 1990s and Alternative Rock Reading: pp. 467-493 <i>Quiz 6 due</i>
Week 13: November 16-20	Widening Gaps Reading: pp. 495-526 <i>Virtual Rock Festival due</i>
Week 14: November 23-27	The 2000s and Rock Traditions Reading: pp. 529-561 <i>Quiz 7 due</i>
Week 15 and Finals Week: Nov 30-Dec. 10	The 2010s and Rock in the Mainstream Reading: pp. 563-600 <i>Discussion 6 due</i> <i>Quiz 8 due</i>