



**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**WINTER II TERM 2017**  
**MUS 125: History of Rock & Roll**

**Instructor:** Dr. Lance Nielsen  
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**Office:** NA  
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**Class Time:** Online Asynchronous      **Room:** NA

**Office Hours:** NONE – contact by email. I will respond within a 24-hour time frame.

**Course Title:** MUS 125 – History of Rock and Roll

**Course Description:** Rock and Roll is the music of youth, rebellion, and of the common spirit that ties all that together. Rock and Roll music tells the story of the human spirit involving controversy, tragedy, self-indulgence, love, sex, peace, and tranquility. This class will trace the history of Rock and Roll music from its rise as a blending of White and African-American music traditions amidst the youth oriented culture of post-World War II America to its subsequent diversification and internationalization. This history will be viewed in the context of the political, historical, economical, demographical, cultural and technological forces at work in the modern and post-modern world.

**Text and References:**

Larson, Thomas E. (2014). History of Rock & Roll, Fifth Edition. Kendall Hunt Publishing Company. ISBN 9781465278623

NOTE: It is important you get the correct edition and buy a new book. There is an activation code in the inside cover of the text for a FREE 4 month subscription to Rhapsody Music Service. You will be using Rhapsody for a series of listening assignments.

**Optional Reference Texts:**

Extra readings will be provided via Blackboard or available to online students through the Doane University Library.

**Course Goals:** The student will:

1. Demonstrate an awareness of the major factors involved in the development of Rock and Roll from its roots to the present.
2. Develop an aural awareness of the changing sounds of Rock and Roll over time.
3. Classify the subject of a pop song into cultural/social categories such as environment, peace/antiwar, sports, social upheaval, justice/injustice, civil rights, economics, gender roles in society, romantic love, sex, alienation, introspection, counter culture, etc...

**Instructional Activities:**

1. Students will read a variety of documents on the history and evolution of American Pop Music. The readings for the class will be the prompt for in class discussions on sociological impacts of rock music on American culture.
2. Students will complete extensive listening and video review assignments through both YouTube and a free subscription to Rhapsody Music Service.
3. Students will complete a culminating research project that answers the essential question: *How has Rock & Roll reflected and been influenced by major social and cultural changes during the last sixty plus years?* Within the context of this paper, the student will infuse their research and study of 2-3 famous rock artists / bands of their choosing, which will provide the foundation in answering the essential question.

**Outcomes Foundational Areas of Knowledge:** This course meets the outcomes under the area of Human Creativity.

**F. Human Creativity**

Students will understand the complex layers of the creative process, its reflection of human society and its power to impact. Students will work to:

1. Interpret artistic and/or aesthetic expression
2. Develop skills in self-expression through the production of their own creative work, or the critical analysis of others' work
3. Use their insights to articulate the role of creativity in the examination of the human condition

**Attendance Policy:**

This course is based on class discussion and interaction in an online environment. However, it is expected that students reserve a time each day to complete the readings and project assignments by the due dates listed on Blackboard. If you devote 4 to 5 hours per week on this course, you will have success. Please note there are assignments DUE at the end of each week. You may, however, work ahead. Incompletes for this course are only granted for extreme situations and only IF you have completed 75% of the course. In this case, you must have completed everything in Modules 1-6 plus the Special Group Project and have submitted the necessary paperwork before the appropriate deadline.

**Course Evaluation:** Will be determined by demonstrating mastery through:

- Online Participation in discussion groups / Twitter based on readings
- Listening Assignments
- Chapter Assignments
- Research Project

**Student Evaluation:**

All projects will be evaluated based on a point-based rubric.

TOTAL 200 pts.

Discussion Questions/Twitter Posts = 40

Chapter Assignments = 70

Listening Quiz = 20

Final Project = 70

Please Note! Late Assignments will be reduced by one letter grade per day unless previous arrangements are made.

Grading Scale (+ and – will be awarded)

180 - 200 = A

160 - 179 = B

140 - 159 = C

120 - 139 = D

120 and below = F

**Special Note:**

Students with disabilities substantially limiting a major life activity are eligible for reasonable accommodations in college programs, including this course. Accommodations provide equal opportunity to obtain the same level of achievement while maintaining the standards of excellence of the college. If you have a disability that may interfere with your participation or performance in this course, please meet me to discuss disability-related accommodations and other special learning needs. Videos in the course have CC accessibility. If there is no CC available for music videos, a transcript of the lyrics has been supplied.

**Academic integrity:**

Students in this class will adhere to the policies and procedures for academic honesty outlined in the student handbook. Cheating in any form will be punished with (1) an F in the course, and (2) a note in your permanent student file. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the academic policies contained in the catalog/student handbook (both of which are online and may be assessed through the Doane website). Failure to do so does not excuse students from the requirements and regulations described therein.