

The Department's Educational Philosophy

Education in the Arts plays a major role in three general areas of education. Students gain knowledge of events and historical movements that shaped society. The arts help to develop critical and creative thinking skills. The arts can provide the means for communicating thoughts, emotions, and ideas that cannot otherwise be expressed.

Guiding Principles

For those students interested in developing skills in voice, instrumental, and drama performance, the Performing Arts Department offers courses and activities of considerable variety. Performance material is selected to meet the varied needs and skill levels of the students, provide cultural enrichment for the students, help students develop aesthetic, make provision for technical growth of the students, provide for school and community service, and create interdisciplinary relationships.

HISTORY OF ROCK & ROLL and CONTEMPORARY MUSIC: COURSE #877

Course Frequency: Full-year course, meets alternate days

Credits Offered: 2.5 Credits

Prerequisites: None

Background to the Curriculum

This course seeks to balance understanding the development and significance of Rock & Roll in its historical and social environment, while maintaining a focus on listening to the music as the main mode of understanding. Students will have a chance to be the rock critic as they study the chronological history of rock and view Rock & Roll films and videos. Class assignments will be organized around lectures, small group discussions, and in-class activities. The course begins with an overview of ancestors and influences: blues, boogie-woogie, jazz, swing, country & western, gospel, popular music, and the crossover success of rhythm & blues acts that marked the true birth of rock and roll. We will study the musical and social trends of the 1960s, including the influence of the British Invasion, which really signaled the arrival of rock's second Generation, the rock explosion and social upheaval of the late 1960s, and the changes in Rock & Roll music during the seventies, eighties, and nineties. The course will culminate in an exploration of today's current musical trends and icons.

Core Topics / Questions / Concepts/ Skills

- To demonstrate an awareness of the major factors involved in the development of Rock and Roll from its roots to the present.
- To acquire useful and relevant information by making connections between the artists and musical genres of yesterday and today.
- To develop the necessary skills to gather further information about musical topics of interest.
- To think critically about information sources, both primary and secondary, recognizing bias and viewpoint and separating fact from fiction.
- To respect and appreciate one's own musical culture and interests, as well as those of others.
- To develop an aural awareness of the changing sounds of Rock and Roll over time.

Topics Outline

- The Roots of Rock
- The Emergence of Rock and Roll
- Rock and Roll: Fifties Style
- Transition: The Early 1960s
- The Beatles
- The British Invasion
- Folk Music and Folk Rock
- Soul and Motown
- San Francisco
- Jazz Rock
- Art Rock
- The Seventies
- The Eighties
- Recent Developments
- Overview and Editorials

Course-end Learning Objectives:

Students will:

- 1) Demonstrate an awareness of the major factors involved in the development of Rock and Roll from its roots to the present.
- 2) Acquire useful and relevant information by making connections between the artists and musical genres of yesterday and today.
- 3) Develop the necessary skills to gather further information about musical topics of interest.
- 4) Think critically about information sources, both primary and secondary, recognizing bias and viewpoint and separating fact and fiction.
- 5) Respect and appreciate one's own musical culture and interests, as well as those of others.
- 6) Develop an aural awareness of the changing sounds of Rock & Roll over time.

Assessment

- Daily preparedness and active participation in classroom and small group discussions
- Written quizzes and exams
- Listening logs
- Final project

Materials and Resources=

- Text: Joe Stuessy & Scott Lipsomb, Rock and Roll: Its History and Stylistic Development. Fifth Edition (2005).
- In class DVD/VHS videos of concert footage, interviews, and documentaries
- Audio recordings of relevant musical groups

- Supplemental articles from related texts, music magazines, newspaper publications, and online resources
- Reference books on hold in library