

Music 317.13 • Popular Music and Culture

Providence College

Tuesdays 9:50 - 11:05 and Fridays 3:20 - 4:35 3 Credit hours

Fall 2009

Instructor: Dr. Karen Sunabacka (& Dr. Nicholas Greco)

Email: karen.sunabacka@prov.ca

Phone: (204)433-7488 ext. 271

Office: 1F-14

Office Hours: Mon. 12:40-3:15, Wed. 9:40-12

Fri. 2 - 3:15, or by appointment

Syllabus

A. Course Description

This course introduces the history of American and British popular music after the Second World War with an emphasis on Canadian popular music. This course also considers the ways in which popular music has contributed to Canadian culture during this time and, in turn, how Canadian culture has shaped popular music.

B. Course Objectives

Through participation in lectures, classroom discussion and completion of the course requirements:

1. The student will have a basic understanding of the origins of what is known as "rock 'n' roll," particularly in an American and British context;
2. The student will become familiar with the historical development of popular music after the Second World War;
3. The student will gain a greater appreciation for how Canadian musicians have influenced the wider world of popular music;
4. The student will be equipped to critically engage with popular music.

C. Course Text and Materials

Starr, Larry, Christopher Waterman and Jay Hodgson. *Rock: A Canadian Perspective*. Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 2009.

D. Grading Summary

Presentation "This is My Music"	15%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Project: Musical Analysis	25%
Final Exam	30%
Attendance/Participation	10%

Numerical Grade Equivalents

A+= 97-100	B+= 87-89	C+= 77-79	D+= 65-69	F = 0-54
A = 93-96	B = 83-86	C = 73-76	D = 60-64	
A- = 90-92	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72	D- = 55-59	

E. Course Requirements

Presentation “This is My Music”

This is an opportunity for you to present a favourite popular music piece to the rest of the class. You need to introduce the background of the song (including information about the band or performer, songwriter or composer and its cultural placement – the time in which it was written) and the reasons why you like the song. Each student will only have **five-minutes** to talk (the presentation will be timed and a buzzer WILL sound when you are out of time) and then two to three minutes for a performance of the chosen piece. Make sure you practice your presentation a few times before you present in class. **One week** after your presentation, **a paper** (based on your presentation) **will be due**. Both the presentation and paper will be graded and together is worth 15% of your final mark.

Midterm and Final Exams

The midterm and final exam will have three sections – Multiple choice, music recognition and essay questions. All the material will be from the assigned reading, listening and class lectures.

Final Project – Musical Analysis (5-6 pages PLUS a Listening Chart)

The **final project** is a detailed analysis of a popular music work. You will begin by listening carefully to the chosen work and then creating a listening chart (examples will be given in class). Then you will choose an aspect of the piece to discuss and analyze in detail. The paper needs to be well organized and clear. More details will be given in class.

F. Course Policies

In addition to the policies outlined in the *Student Handbook*, full text to the academic policies, procedures and regulations of Providence College can be found online or in the library, Admissions Office, and the Dean’s Office.

http://prov.ca/college/ac_pol-proc-reg.aspx

Class Attendance and Participation

I expect each student to be prepared to participate in each and every class. I will be keeping track of participation in class. Participation is worth 10% of your grade. If you miss more than **three** classes your grade WILL be affected.

Late Assignment Policy

I will accept late assignments, but at a loss of 10% per class that it is late. Because this course relies heavily on a cumulative understanding of concepts, a late assignment will have a large effect on the understanding of concepts in this course.

Plagiarism

Issues of academic integrity will be dealt with according to the policies outlined in the Academic Conduct section of the Student Handbook, the Providence College document entitled “Academic Dishonesty: The Problem of Plagiarism in Academic Writing,” in the Providence College Academic Formation Guide available in the bookstore, or in the Providence College Policies, Procedures, and Regulations. Students are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the policies and with the consequences attached to their violation. Information can be found on-line at: <http://prov.ca/studentLife/handbook.aspx> or http://prov.ca/college/ac_pol-proc-reg.aspx.

G. Music Listening Lists - iMix on iTunes

There are two iMix lists available through iTunes from where you can download songs. The names of the mixes are:

Rock, a Canadian Perspective – Made to go with the textbook.

Providence Pop Music List – A special and shorter list created by Dr. Sunabacka and Dr. Greco. This list is the official list for exams. It will be added to throughout the semester as pieces are discussed and studied. There will be at least one piece per class.

To get to these lists:

In iTunes go to iTunes Store

In the box titled “iTunes STORE” click “Music”

In the box titled “MORE IN MUSIC” click “iMix”

In the “Search for” box Search for: (one of the titles above)

Click on the title of the iMix

You can purchase all the songs or simply one at a time. It’s up to you, but you will need to have a way to listen to the music that is posted to the **Providence Pop Music List** iMix. This list will be added to as the semester progresses (we will always keep the list up-to-date and be sure it is ready a week before each of the exams).

Course Outline, Reading Assignments and Homework

Sept. 11 Friday	Introduction to Syllabus and course requirements What is Popular Music? <input type="checkbox"/> Assign: 5-minute Presentation - This is My Music
Sept. 15 Tuesday	The Post-WW2 Context <input type="checkbox"/> READ: Introduction - pp xxii-xxviii
Sept. 18 Friday	Pre-History of Rock (1944-1955) <input type="checkbox"/> READ: Chapter 1 - pp 1-23
Sept. 22 Tuesday	Pre-History of Rock (1944-1955) <input type="checkbox"/> READ: Chapter 1 - pp 23-39
Sept. 25 Friday	Emergence of Rock 'n' Roll (1954-1960) <input type="checkbox"/> READ: Chapter 2 - pp 40-64
Sept. 29 Tuesday	Emergence of Rock 'n' Roll (1954-1960) <input type="checkbox"/> READ: Chapter 2 - pp 65-83
Oct. 2 Friday	Pop in Canada <input type="checkbox"/> READ: Chapter 3 - pp 85-101
Oct. 6 Tuesday	Pop in Canada <input type="checkbox"/> READ: Chapter 3 - pp 101- 121
Oct. 9	No Class - Thanksgiving Break
Oct. 13 Tuesday	The arrival of the Beatles (1958-1964) <input type="checkbox"/> READ: Chapter 3 - pp 122-135
Oct. 16 Friday	Rock in the 1960's <input type="checkbox"/> READ: Chapter 4 - pp 137-155
Oct. 20 Tuesday	Bob Dylan's Career in Stolen Moments-Guest Lecture: Michael Gilmour <input type="checkbox"/> READ: Chapter 4 - pp155-165
Oct. 23 Friday	Rock in the 1960's <input type="checkbox"/> READ: Chapter 4 - pp 165-192

Oct. 27 Tuesday	The late 60's and early 70's in Canada <input type="checkbox"/> READ: Chapter 5 - pp 194-198
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Oct. 30 Friday	Midterm exam
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Nov. 3 Tuesday	Canadian Rock in the 1970's/Canadian Content Regulation <input type="checkbox"/> READ: Chapter 5 - pp 198-224 <input type="checkbox"/> Assign: Final Project - Musical Analysis
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Nov. 6 Friday	Canadian Rock in the 1970's/Canadian Content Regulation <input type="checkbox"/> READ: Chapter 5 - pp 224-248
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Nov. 10 Tuesday	Outsiders' music of the 1970's: Reggae, Disco, Punk <input type="checkbox"/> READ: Chapter 6 - pp 250-279
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Nov. 13 Friday	Outsiders' music of the 1970's: Reggae, Disco, Punk <input type="checkbox"/> READ: Chapter 6 - pp 279-300
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Nov. 17 Tuesday	Guest Lecture - Local Manitoba Musician - Cara Luft <input type="checkbox"/> READ: TBA
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Nov. 20 Friday	Rock in the 1980s/The rise of Much Music/videos and mega-events <input type="checkbox"/> READ: Chapter 7 - pp 302-335
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Nov. 24 Tuesday	Rock in the 1980s/The rise of Much Music/videos and mega-events <input type="checkbox"/> READ: Chapter 7 - pp 335-356
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Nov. 27 Friday	Alternative: Rock in the 1990's <input type="checkbox"/> READ: Chapter 8 - pp 358-390
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Dec. 1 Tuesday	Alternative: Rock in the 1990's <input type="checkbox"/> READ: Chapter 8 - pp 390-417
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Dec. 4 Friday	Rock in the new Millenium <input type="checkbox"/> READ: Chapter 9 - pp 419-437
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Dec. 8 Tuesday	Rock in the new Millenium <input type="checkbox"/> READ: Chapter 9 - pp 437-449 <input type="checkbox"/> DUE: Final Project - Musical Analysis

Dec. 11 Current trends in popular music
Friday

Dec. 15 **8:30 - 10:30 FINAL EXAM - IN REGULAR CLASSROOM**
Tuesday

PLEASE NOTE: The Voluntary Withdrawal date is **NOVEMBER 13th, 2009**. (This is the last day to withdraw from the course without academic penalty.)

Bibliography

[NOTE: ALL TITLES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE PROVIDENCE LIBRARY]

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- Miller, Paul D., Ed. *Sound unbound : sampling digital music and culture*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2008.
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- Shapiro, Peter. *Turn the beat around: the secret history of disco*. New York: Faber and Faber, 2005.
- Stark, Steven D. *Meet the Beatles: a cultural history of the band that shook youth, gender, and the world*. New York: HarperEntertainment, 2005.
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