

Sociology 3041, Sociology of Rock
Spring 2015
Thursday, 1:00-3:30pm
Dixie State University

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Office
Hours: Monday-Friday 11:00am - 12:00pm
Or by appointment

The Course:

This course examines the sociology of rock music. As such, our focus will be on the culture and structure of what we refer to as "rock," as well as on the interactional processes that go into making "rock." We will integrate the sociological approach to rock into a history of the music from its precursors, through rock and roll, to rock, psychedelic, punk, alternative, and beyond.

Course Objectives:

Students completing the Sociology of Rock should:

- demonstrate an understanding of the ideas, people, and events that are generally thought to be important by sociologists of rock;
- demonstrate an understanding of the sociology of rock as an empirical endeavor;
- demonstrate an understanding of the various theoretical perspectives sociologists use to understand rock music.

Text:

Weinstein, Deena. 2015. *Rockn America*. University of Toronto Press.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on the following:

- two take-home essays worth 20% each;
- one in-class group presentation worth 20%;
- one short (2-3 page) film review worth 15%;
- one short individual presentation worth 10%;
- class attendance worth 10%;
- attendance at February 12 film worth 5%.

Take Home Essays:

You will write two take home essays in which you'll answer a question based on our readings and lectures. I will make the take home essay

questions available on February 26 and April 23. The essays are due in class on March 5 and May 7. LATE ESSAYS WILL BE MARKED DOWN ONE GRADE.

In Class Group Presentation:

You, and one or two group partners, will make a 20 minute presentation to our class on either April 16 or 23. The presentation will cover some unit of rock music (i.e. an artist, a genre, an album, a scene). I'll make the presentation assignment available on February 19.

Film Review and Attendance:

On February 12 you'll watch *Blackboard Jungle* in class. Five percent of your overall grade will be attendance at this film. You'll also write a short review of the film based on concepts we've discussed in class and read about in our text. I'll make the Film Review Assignment available on February 5.

Individual Class Presentation:

You will give one short (10 minute) class presentation about a band/song/genre of your choice. I'll make this assignment available on January 15.

Attendance:

An essential element of this course is the discussions we'll have during class time. Therefore, 10% of your grade will be based on attendance. I will take attendance twice per class, at the beginning at after our break. Attendance grades will be determined as follows:

90% attendance or better = A
80% attendance or better = B
70% attendance or better = C
60% attendance or better = D
Less than 60% attendance = F

Official school related and health absences, with documentation, will be honored.

NOTE: Your final grade is based on your letter grades, not on your accumulation of points.

ANOTHER NOTE: You must complete all exams and assignments to pass this class.

FINAL NOTE: I reserve the right to (a) adjust individual grades based on my evaluation of your participation and enthusiasm in the course and (b) make changes to the syllabus during the course if I feel it will benefit the class.

ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE POLICY: Academic dishonesty in any form, including, but not limited to, plagiarism on written assignments, submitting other person's work as one's own, and cheating on exams or quizzes will not be tolerated at Dixie State College of Utah.

Teachers at Dixie State College have the right to manage their classroom environments to ensure a good learning climate.

If you suspect or are aware that you have a disability that may affect your success in the course you are strongly encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) located in the North Plaza Building. The disability will be evaluated and eligible students will receive assistance in obtaining reasonable accommodations. Phone 435-652-7516.

Important class and college information will be sent to your dmail email account. This information includes your DSC bill, financial aid/scholarship notices, notification of dropped classes, reminders of important dates and events, and other information critical to your success in this class and at DSC. All DSC students are automatically assigned a dmail email account. If you do not know your user name and password, go to www.dixie.edu and select "dmail" for complete instructions. You will be held responsible for information sent to your dmail email, so please check it often.

Course Schedule

<u>Week & Topics</u>	<u>Readings</u>
<u>Week #1</u> January 15 Introduction to Sociology Individual Presentation Assignment Available	
<u>Week #2</u> January 22 Defining Rock	Chapter 1
<u>Week #3</u> January 29 Rock's Precursors	Chapter 2
<u>Week #4</u> February 5 Rock and Roll Film Review Assignment Available	Chapter 3
<u>Week #5</u> February 12 <i>Blackboard Jungle</i> Attendance worth 5% of Grade	Film
<u>Week #6</u> February 19 Mainstreaming of Rock and Roll Film Review Paper Due In Class Group Presentation Assignment Available	Chapter 4
<u>Week #7</u> February 26 Rock Take Home Essay Assignment #1 Available	Chapter 5

<u>Week #8</u> March 5 Mainstreaming of Rock Take Home Essay Assignment #1 Due	Chapter 6
<u>Week X</u> March 12 No School	
<u>Week #9</u> March 19 Punk	Chapter 7
<u>Week #10</u> March 26 MTV/Indie Rock	Chapters 8 & 9
<u>Week #11</u> April 2 Alternative and Grunge	Chapter 10
<u>Week #12</u> April 9 Industry Decline and the Digital Age	Chapters 11 & 12
<u>Week #13</u> April 16 In Class Group Presentations	
<u>Week #14</u> April 23 In Class Group Presentations Last Class, Wednesday, April 23	
<u>Take Home Essay #2 Due</u> Thursday, May 7, 12:30 - 2:30pm	