GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

TOPICS IN POPULAR MUSIC

MU2640 A3 3(3-0-0) Win 2005

This course is "University Transfer' to Athabasca University, and to U of A, U of C, and U of L.

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Topics in Popular Music provides the opportunity to study several aspects of popular music, and the society and culture that surrounds it. Using DD1021 as a jumping-off point, MU 2640 will explore some of several possible topics, and subject matter changes each year. Topics will be chosen from a number of subjects, relevant to both the academic and non-academic aspects of popular music study and experience. Possible topics for 2005 include gender and sex issues, propaganda and politics, issues of race and prejudice, identity, and music video.

Because much of the class will be organized as a seminar, it is vital that assigned readings be done and studied before the date for which they are due. Participation in discussions in class will make up a significant part of all class sessions, and also a portion of the final grade for this course. Therefore, attendance is not just optional…

Prerequisite: DD 1021 History of Popular Music in the Twentieth Century, or consent of the Instructor.

Evaluation:

Class Contribution	10%
Article Abstracts and other assignments	25%
Mid-term examination (probably March 2)	15%
Research project	25%
Final examination	25%

Both assigned readings and critical listening/viewing are important aspects of the course, and exams will reflect material from readings and recordings and videos, along with content from our discussions. Recordings and videos will be related to, and reflect, information covered in the readings. Over the duration of the course, you will be asked several times to submit an abstract of an article that we are currently reading. That abstract will be due *before* we discuss the article in class, so *nothing* will be accepted late.

Research Project: You will demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of an aspect of the course through a research project involving a paper and class presentation. Topics should be chosen before March 2 in consultation with the instructor, and the written paper will be due at the beginning of our second-last class on April 11. The paper must be a minimum of 2500 words (roughly 10 typed pages, depending on your font) in length, and must be typed. Presentations will occupy the final two or three days of the semester. They should be approximately 20 minutes in length, and will share the content of the paper with the class. You may use any combination of available audio and visual tools, but it is expected that the main part of the presentation will be performed "live" by you.

Progression Policy: All students who are absent from more then 20% of this class may be told to leave this class. Further, if students fail to complete and submit 85% of the graded requirements of the term mark, they will not be allowed to write the final exam, or complete the course. In such a case, the student will automatically receive a failing grade of "F" on the final exam. This means that students MUST submit the research project to pass the course. See P. 36 of the 2004-2005 Calendar for details.

Required Materials:

Shuker, Roy. 2001. Understanding Popular Music, 2nd ed. New York: Routledge.

Various Authors and Dates. MU 2640 Coursepack: A Collection of Selected Readings Dealing with the Culture(s) of Popular Music