



**DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS**  
**COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2017**

**MU2640 (A3): Topics in Popular Music (History of Rock) – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for  
15 Weeks**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Geoffrey Whittall                      **PHONE:** 780-539-2823  
**OFFICE:** L-119    **E-MAIL:** gwhittall@gprc.ab.ca  
**OFFICE HOURS:** As posted on my office door and by appointment

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:** This course provides the opportunity to study several aspects of popular music, and the society and culture that surround it. Topics may include politics and propaganda; issues of gender, sexuality and race; identity and counterculture; music lyrics, and video analysis. The 2016 topic is the history of rock musics; this is an in-depth exploration of aspects of rock-related musics that were not comprehensively covered in DD1021.

**PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:** DD1021 or consent of the Instructor

**REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:**

- *What's That Sound? 4<sup>th</sup> ed.* by John Covach and Andrew Flory, (Norton, 2015).
- Additional Readings will be provided via links or handouts.

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** Lecture and Discussion

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Students will become familiar with music styles, artists, and the cultural contexts and histories of several distinct rock-related musics. The majority of the content will focus on North America—especially the United States—but time will be spent exploring the contributions of other countries, such as Canada and Great Britain. We will also look at some aspects of the global music industry.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** Upon successful completion of this course, students will be familiar with many different genres of rock and roll, rock, post-rock, rap and hip hop, and blended musics. Students will understand how those musics are the products of their environments and how the economic system surrounding popular music functions, and how the artists, music, and consumers all play a role in the identities of the cultures that have developed them. Additionally, students will be able to identify many genres of rock by ear, and will understand the contributions that artists, producers, songwriters, and other individuals have made to specific genres.

**TRANSFERABILITY:** AU (MUSI 3XX (3)), UA (MUSIC 2XX (3) or AUMUS 2XX (3)), UC (MUHL 309), UL (MUSI 3200)

**\*Warning:** Although we strive to make the transferability information in this document up-to-date and accurate, **the student has the final responsibility for ensuring the transferability of this course to Alberta Colleges and Universities.** Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca> or, if you do not want to navigate through few links, at <http://alis.alberta.ca/ps/tsp/ta/tbi/onlineSearch.html?SearchMode=S&step=2>

**\*\* Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

## EVALUATIONS:

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| • Assignments and Quizzes                   | 30% |
| • Mid-term examination (likely February 28) | 15% |
| • Research project: Term Paper              | 25% |
| • Final examination                         | 30% |

You will demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of an aspect of the course through a research project involving a formal paper and a class presentation. Topics should be chosen before February **09** in consultation with the instructor, and the written paper will be due by the *beginning* of class on April **06**. The paper must be a minimum of 2500 words (roughly 10 typed pages, depending on your font) in length, and must be typed. You must submit the term paper to be allowed to write the final exam.

Because some of our time together will be organized as class discussions, assigned readings must be done before the date for which they are due. There are no opportunities for make-up work, so plan to submit your work before it is due. Extensions may be granted for medical or compassionate grounds; they will only be granted *before* the due date.

## GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	90-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

## **COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:**

Late term papers will not be accepted because they are tied to class presentations; to be fair to all students, everyone must submit their paper before the presentations begin.

The final exam will take place in the examination period following classes in April.

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Attendance at all class sessions is highly recommended. More than 20% absenteeism may constitute a failure except for medical or extenuating circumstances in which case a doctor's letter may be required.
- Students will receive a warning 'Notice Of Absenteeism' at 15% absenteeism.
- After 20% absenteeism, you may be required to withdraw from the course.
- *Refer to Student Conduct, Attendance, on page 42 of the College Calendar.* You should become familiar with pages 34-44 of the GPRC 2016-2017 Calendar, along with College policies about academics and student responsibilities.

## **STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:**

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Calendar at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies>

Instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments.

**Instructors also reserve the right to ban the use of any form of electronics (cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, tablets, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during class and during exams.**

**\*\*Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.