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| **HSTR 121: History, Music and the American Century** **University of Victoria, Fall 2019**  **Class meets Mondays, Wednesdays, 4:30-5:50 pm, room: C**OR **B-108** |
| Instructor: Mark R. Baker, PhD  Office: CLE-B214  Telephone: 778-584-1974  EMAIL: markrbaker@uvic.ca  I am most easily accessible via email, but phone is fine too.  Office hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, 5:50-6:50 pm |
| **Course Description:** |
| This course is supposed to explore “central issues in post-1880 U.S. history by examining the interplay between political culture and popular music. Major themes include the rise and fall of Jim Crow segregation, technological change, Cold War culture, the Vietnam War and the protest movements, changing gender relations and the debate over globalization.” I plan to focus the course more on contemporary events, and more on the origins and development of one of the most popular forms of modern musical expression: Rock and Roll. Topics include the origins of the genre in the southern United States, coming out of a mix of jazz, blues, country, and bluegrass music; the commercialization of rock music; the transformation of African-American music for white audiences; the British Invasions; transnational 1960s youth culture; the creation of mass music consumption; the means and the message (radio, MTV, napster, bittorrent, and iTunes); the internationalization of Rock music; the splintering of Rock and other related popular forms across the globe. Emphasis will be placed on the dual processes of Rock's strong tendency to question the status quo and capitalism's remarkable ability to co-opt this questioning. |
| **Course Learning Objectives:** |
| **Expectations and Goals:**   * To provide students with a basic understanding of the causes of the rise of Rock and Roll as a music genre * To guide students through the development of the genre into a social, cultural, and economic project * To encourage students to think more critically about the origins and operation of the globalized music industry * To improve students' writing and critical thinking about the ways film portrays rock and roll and its musicians. |
| **Required Readings:** |
| * **Weinstein, Deena. *Rock'n America: A Social and Cultural History*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2015.** * **Marcus, Greil. *History of Rock 'n' Roll in Ten Songs*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2015.** |
| **Course Requirements:** |
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| **Class Format**: |
| Our classes will include lectures, class discussions, and film presentations. It is very important that you complete reading assignments before class. I will presume that students have done the reading. Instead of trying to cover all the subject matter in the reading, I will focus on important themes, points and controversies. The lectures and the class discussions will make much more sense and be more useful to you, if you have done the readings in advance. |
| **Very Important Rules:** |
| * Late papers will be accepted, but one-third of a grade per day will be deducted (for example, a "B-" paper that is one day late will become a C+ paper). * Make-up examinations will be permitted only with written verification of medical or personal emergencies. I am a historian; I require written evidence. * You MUST check your email account on a regular basis in order to do well in this course as well as Course Spaces, where I will post additional material for the course and powerpoint presentations. * Be on time for class; if you need to leave class early, please let me know in advance. * The classroom is a public forum for dialogue. Hence, all electronic communication devices (especially cell phones and pagers) must be turned off during class. * Students unable to comply with any of these guidelines should see me personally and immediately to discuss their reasons. |
| **Discussion topics, power point presentations, required reading assignments, and useful links to other reading and listening will be found in our CourseSpaces site:**  <https://coursespaces.uvic.ca/course/view.php?id=69112> |