

Week 4 - Rock

Sep. 18, 2020

Course check in

1. Exam format

- Listening IDs + short answer

2. Writing assignment

- 1500 words, on a topic of your choosing, to be proposed (100 words) by September 18th

Example

- Listening ID
 - Name the artist and the song and, possibly, the genre.

Example

- What is one of the “musical inheritances” from Africa that we can hear in the Blues?

Rock (and Roll)

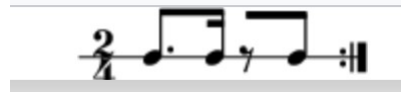
- A *very* general word.
 - Prog Rock, Heavy Metal, Emo, Indie
- Like Tin Pan Alley, also represents a fusion of white and black musical forms.
- Traceable basically to the 1950s in the Southern United States

Influences: Gospel

- The music of black churches in the south, heavily influential in Blues, Jazz, and R and B, in turn was influential for Rock.
- Jayson Tyson, contemporary church keyboardist
- Again Jayson Tyson

Influences: Spanish “Tinge”

- Phrase credited to Jelly Roll Morton, but the rhythm



Actually has much older origins in Afro-Caribbean music, more generally as a 3 + 3 + 2 division of the measure

Influences: Country Music

- Or “hillbilly music,” as it was known for first half of 20th century
- A popular music of White southern united states, drawing on traditional music of Ireland and Scotland.
- Located in Nashville, Tennessee
- Tammy Wynette, Stand by Your Man
- John Denver, Take Me Home, Country Road

Big Joe Turner, Roll 'em Pete (1938)

- Basically a blues piece, but has various rock characteristics
- Recording

Characteristics of Rock

- More regularity than the blues
- Song-verse forms rather than 12-bar repetition
- Festive, light hearted style
- Dance music
- Association with a new thing called “youth culture.”

Rhythm and Blues, Doowop

- An important precursor to “rock,” it contained many of the elements of the black musical forms that would become popular in the Rock genre.
- Sh-boom, by the Coasters

Bill Haley, Rock Around the Clock

- Shake, Rattle and Roll
- Rock around the Clock

Great Migration

- Before, during, and after WWII, the mass migration of black people from the American south to its urban centers. Especially NYC, Los Angeles, and Chicago.
- Chess Records, in Chicago, promotes the music of these new arrivals.
- Chuck Berry, [Johnny B Goode](#)



Important Early Rock Records

Fats Domino

- Ain't that a Shame (1955)
- Blueberry Hill

Sister Rosetta Tharpe (1944)

- Strange Things Happen Every Day

Little Richard

- Tutti Frutti
- Good Golly, Miss Molly

Blue Suede Shoes, Carl Perkins

- Recording

Goree Carter

- Rock Awhile (1949)

Elvis

- Appears against the backdrop of Country and Western, or, as it was known then, “**Hillbilly**” music
- Even though many were Blueses or “Bluesy,” they were still sung by white people.
 - **Elvis, My Happiness (1953)**
 - **Elvis, That’s Alright, Mama**
 -

Blackboard Jungle (1955)

- Trailer
- Beginning of Rock's popular appeal,
Also marks the beginning of America's fear of its
"inner cities."
 - That is, the idea that the cities are full of sex, drugs,
danger and poverty.

Jerry Lewis

- Great Balls of Fire (1958)

The Beatles and the “British Invasion”

- 1960: Formed
- 1963: Please Please Me
- 1967: Strawberry Fields



Sargeant Pepper's Lonely Heart's Club Band (1967)



Some other flavors

- Psychedelia: Jimi Hendrix, Led Zeppelin
- Indie Rock: Dirty Projectors
- Frank Zappa

Writing Assignment, Due on Wednesday

- Pick any Rock song from this week's work (lecture or on the website)
- Is the form a blues?
- Kot describes Rock as "a mixture of country and rhythm and blues." But that will never be a complete description of any single song. What is there in your chosen song that does not come from Country or Rhythm and Blues?