

**MUHL3310 -- Section 001**  
**History of Rock and Roll**  
**Spring Semester 2008**  
**SYLLABUS**

**Section 1: Introduction**

**Class Title**

MUHL3310: History of Rock and Roll

**Time & Location**

W & F 2pm - 3:20pm (Please notice this is an 80-minute class)

Biology, LH100

**Professor**

Roberto Vela

(note: I am sometimes listed as Rob Vela or Robert Vela.)

**Office**

Music Building, Room 248.

## **Office Hours**

Office hours are by appointment only. It's best to make an appointment with me via WebCT e-mail.

## **Telephone**

742-0700

## **E-Mail**

Please email me via WebCT.

E-mail will be deleted without "Rock History" in the subject line.

Please put your full name on all correspondence.

## **Class Website**

<http://www.WebCT.ttu.edu>

## **TAs**

Please communicate with Shannon Crenshaw, Philip Wood, and Bryan Donald through WebCT.

Please email all extra credit to any of our TAs via WebCT. All extra credit is to be turned in via WebCT.

If you have any questions regarding the course, please email Shannon, Philip, or Bryan via WebCT.

### **Textbooks**

Garofalo, Reebee: Rockin' Out: Popular Music in the U.S.A. Pearson / Prentice Hall (2nd Custom Edition for Texas Tech, 2006) ISBN: 0-536-27802-4

Rockin' Out is a chronological history of rock and roll that successfully places the music into the context of the social and political events of its time, telling the story of rock and roll in an engaging and narrative style that also ties in the history of the music industry, radio, and the effect of changing media trends. It is an invaluable aid in recognizing and understanding rock's place in the "big picture" as a major cultural phenomenon of the 20th century. The custom edition of your textbook includes a section of supplemental readings that will also be required for the course. Check the Course Calendar for specific reading assignments.

Brackett, David. *The Pop, Rock, and Soul Reader: Histories and Debates*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005. ISBN: 0-19-512570-3

The *Pop, Rock, and Soul Reader* is an anthology of primary sources - that is, a collection of writings from the original time periods and situations of the various rock and roll styles. While you will mostly be tested on the works of journalism and criticism, the interviews and autobiographies are invaluable aids to understanding the musicians and their times, and I would encourage you to eventually read the whole book. You may also find that the interviews and articles give you ideas for extra credit assignments (these are described later.)

NOTE: Both of your textbooks cover time periods beyond the scope of this class. We have a long range plan to make this a two semester course; these books will both be usable for a "Rock History 2" course as well.

## **Section 2: Course Content, Purpose, Expected Outcomes and Assessment**

(This section required by Tech for all courses)

## **Course Content**

MUHL 3310 will introduce students to the styles and history of rock & roll, from its roots in the traditional musics of African-Americans and rural whites, through the 1950's, 60's, and '70s, to the advent of the Punk Rock movement. The course will include lecture, listening, in-class activities and discussion, web-based quizzes and exams, and two in-class listening exams.

## **Course Purpose**

In this course, students will be encouraged to explore the continuity of rock & roll's history, the social and cultural factors that gave rise to it and in turn responded to it, and its important figures, style characteristics, and periods. Together we will develop listening tools and analytical skills which will enrich our understanding of rock & roll's construction, and its social and cultural roles in the first 30 years of its development.

## **Expected Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Listen to an example from a genre of music studied in class, comprehend its distinctive characteristics, and articulate those characteristics.
2. Listen to an example from a genre of music studied in class, identify its characteristics, and develop conclusions about its genre and historical contexts of its origin.
3. Identify representative pieces chosen from each period, and draw intelligent conclusions about probable genre, artist, and approximate date.
4. Recognize, define, and employ significant terms and concepts introduced in the readings or lectures.
5. Describe the broad historical context, likely social function, and probable performance circumstances for a piece on the class listening list (and for pieces of similar types).
6. Listen to an example from a genre of music studied in class, and articulate a comparison to other music genres discussed in class.

7. Employ a range of technical language to identify, discuss, compare, and integrate aspects of musical style within the rock, blues, or rhythm and blues idiom.
8. Describe and compare a range of music styles, and relate their style characteristics to aspects of cultural history.
9. Listen, read, speak, and think critically about the relationship between musical style and cultural history.

### **Methods for Assessing the Expected Learning Outcomes**

The expected learning outcomes will be assessed by a combination of web-based quizzes, examinations, listening exams, and optional short written extra-credit assignments, as detailed below in the "Course Requirements" section.

## **Section 3: Course Requirements**

### **Lectures and Regular Class Attendance**

In class sessions, we will listen to, analyze, and discuss a wide variety of specific styles, artists, and specific pieces from the genres of blues, country, rhythm and blues, and rock and roll. Class time will

be spent in lecture, discussion, listening, and viewing. Lectures will include the following:

- \* biographical and historical data about artists
- \* technical and stylistic characteristics of different musical genres
- \* political, social and cultural history relevant to the musical genres being discussed
- \* video and audio examples of the musical genres being discussed

Much of the material covered in class will NOT be duplicated in readings or WebCT listening examples. It should be understood that anything contained in the lectures is "fair game" for all examinations. Therefore, failure to attend class consistently and take adequate notes lowers the likelihood of adequate performance on examinations. The Power Point slides used during the lectures will help you with your note-taking, but you are responsible for all the material in the lectures, not just the summarized information on the slides.

**Use of this WebCT site ([www.WebCT.ttu.edu](http://www.WebCT.ttu.edu))**

Using the Website is part of the course requirement. You are responsible for all the information contained in it.

\* In addition to being the medium through which you are tested, this WebCT site is full of information about the class, including details about the extra credit assignments and extensive listening resources. It is an integral part of the class -- PLEASE USE IT.

\* Take some time to click on every single icon and see what's contained on all the pages.

\* Make sure that you read the page about taking WebCT exams, even if you have had WebCT classes before.

\* The Listening Resource pages are fantastic, fun, and crucial to doing well on the Listening Exams.

Remember also that WebCT also lets professors track individual student usage of the website, page by page. I've seen people do poorly on the Listening Exam, and then I've discovered that they've never even accessed the Listening Resource page. This is a no-brainer.

**Computer Access - IMPORTANT**

\* MUHL 3310 is a WebCT course that relies heavily on web-based activities, including quizzes and exams as well as your listening resources. It is essential that students have access to a reliable, FAST computer with internet capabilities.

\* You must have a current e-Raider account in order to access the WebCT site.

\* Do not try to use a dial-up connection to do your WebCT assignments. If your computer is slow, doesn't support audio applications, or if your internet connection is subject to busy signals and disconnects, use a computer on-campus (for example, at ATLC in the basement of the Tech Library; bring headphones.)

\* It is the student's responsibility to make sure that he or she has access to good, reliable computer resources.

\* It is also the student's responsibility to address technical problems if they come up. If a technical problem has affected a quiz or exam, you MUST report the technical problem to ITHelp or ATLC when it happens, so they have a record of what occurred and when it occurred.) "Technical problems," "My computer froze," and "The

Internet kicked me out" are NOT acceptable excuses for not completing class requirements. "My computer froze," in particular, has become the 21st century version of "The Dog Ate My Homework."

\* It is the student's responsibility to checking his or her WebCT site (including WebCT email) on a daily basis. WebCT will be used for announcements and/or updates regarding Assignments, review materials, scheduling issues, grades, and test dates.

**Assigned Readings (in your textbooks), Readings Quizzes(on WebCT), Reading component on Exams**

The Rock History course requirements include a \*substantial\* amount of reading. Most of it is a "fast read," but it is still a LOT of reading. Please keep this in mind when assessing how much work the class will entail.

The Readings Quizzes will focus on concepts, trends and ideas, and NOT on tiny biographical details or other minutiae.

Many of the readings cover material that is not covered in class.

\* The assigned readings for MUHL3310 will be taken from the two required textbooks.

\* A detailed list of the Assigned Readings, along with a suggested reading Schedule, is given in the Course Calendar.

\* There will be FOUR Readings Quizzes, administered on WebCT and available on WebCT for one week.

\* In addition, there will be a reading component included in the Midterm and the Final.

\* On each quiz, there will be 15 questions worth 1 point apiece. The quizzes will be timed; you will have 45 minutes to complete each quiz.

\* Please see the Course Calendar for the specific dates of these Readings Quizzes.

### **Listening Materials (WebCT)**

There will be a number of listening examples available through the WebCT site. The questions on the Listening Examinations will be taken from these examples and from musical examples listened to in

the course of the class lectures. The WebCT listening examples are not intended for download in any way, shape or form - you must listen to them via the password-protected WebCT site.

### **Listening Exams (WebCT)**

\* There will be two Listening Exams. The first opens on February 20th and the second on March 26th. Both exams will be available for only three days. Each will be worth 50 points.

\* One prepares for Listening Exams by listening to the on-line WebCT listening examples and studying the materials contained in the accompanying slides. The students will be given a list of the specific pieces that will be covered on the exam.

\* The Listening Exam itself will involve listening to a brief audio example and answering at least one multiple-choice question about that example.

### **IMPORTANT!!**

The Listening Exams will be open on WebCT for three days ONLY.

The on-line listening slides and music will be taken OFFLINE for the duration of the Listening Exam's availability.

This means you CANNOT study the Listening Examples during the three day period when the exam is open.

You must do the studying BEFORE the exam opens! Plan accordingly.

There are no make-ups for the listening exams.\_

## **Section 4: Grading**

### **Midterm and Final Exams (WebCT)**

\* There will be a midterm exam and a final exam, administered via WebCT.

\* Both the midterm and the final are timed exams (60 minutes) consisting of multiple choice questions. Each exam will contain 100 questions, worth 1 point each.

\* Material for the exams will be drawn from historical and musical facts and insights learned through your lectures, reading assignments, and listening examples.

\* There are no make-ups for the midterm or final.

## **MIDTERM**

The midterm will open on March 1. It will be open for one week. The midterm will cover every lecture before the Beatles, plus readings indicated in the Class Calendar under "Midterm." Please see the Course Calendar for specific opening and closing times for the midterm exam.

## **FINAL EXAM**

The FINAL EXAM will open May 1 on WebCT.

The FINAL EXAM will CLOSE on May 6 at 11:55PM.

The FINAL is NOT comprehensive: it will cover class lectures from Week 7 (Beatles) through the end of the semester, plus the readings indicated in the Class Calendar under "Final." Please see the Course

Calendar for specific opening and closing times for the midterm exam.

### **IF YOU MISS AN EXAM OR QUIZ**

for any of the following "officially excused" reasons:

1. Death in the family or family emergency
2. Documented illness
3. Religious Holiday
4. Technical problem confirmed by ATLC or ITHELP

(This MUST be officially reported to ATLC or ITHELP)

OR

for any the following "unexcused" reasons:

1. Anything other than the above,

including "I forgot"

You MUST INFORM Prof. Vela within 48 hours.

Exam and Quiz grades will always be posted on WebCT. Just click on the "grades" icon.

**One more thing regarding exams...**

WebCT maintains a record of every student access, including the opening of quizzes and exams, even if those quizzes and exams are only open for one second. It also tells us very accurately if an exam has never been accessed. If WebCT tells me that your quiz or exam was "not taken," that means it was never opened. Every semester there are a few characters who tell me that they have "a grade that isn't showing up" when in fact they did not take the exam. Do not be one of these people.

**MUHL3310 is graded on a point system. Percentages are only used to calculate mid-semester grades.**

The final grade is by calculated by total number of accumulated points, as follows:

The highest possible number of points, not including extra credit, is 360:

Midterm:	100
----------	-----

Final: 100

Reading Quizzes: 60 (four, at 15 points apiece)

Listening Exams: 100 (two, at 50 points apiece)

TOTAL: 360 possible points.

A = 320-360

B = 285-319

C = 250-284

D = 215-249

F = Below 215 points

Once you have 320 points in the class, you have an A.

**FAQ: If I do enough Extra Credit to increase my point total to 320, does this mean I can skip the final?**

Answer: The absolute maximum number of extra credit points you can get in this class is 120. (See Section 5, Extra Credit Options, below.) That would mean that you did every possible extra credit

assignment, including the research paper, AND you scored the maximum number of possible points on each one (extra credits are granted on quality as well as quantity.) It may be possible to do so much extra credit that you already have 320 points before the final - but each extra credit assignment has to be done by a certain date, so it's a gamble; plus, it's a heck of a lot easier to just show up for the lectures, take notes, and take the final.

**The final grades will be posted by noon, May 7, 2008**

**There will be NO grade changes made after the 12th of May.**

PLEASE NOTE: Due to a change in University policy, it is no longer possible to receive a grade of "WF" for a course. If a class has not been dropped within the specified time period, the student must complete the course and receive a grade. If you need to drop the course for any reason, you MUST do so by Jan 25, 2008.

## **Section 5: Extra-Credit Assignment Options**

The extra credit options for MUHL3310 are designed to encourage the student to pursue more in-depth study of specific genres, musicians, or ensembles. Any of

the following Extra Credit Assignment Options should be turned in electronically as Word attachments by sending them via WebCT e-mail to your assigned TA.

Extra Credit assignments are graded on the basis of quality as well as quantity. You are not guaranteed the full possible number of points unless you have satisfied

all the criteria of the assignment as described on the WebCT site.

For example, if your film review is three sentences full of misspellings and grammatical mistakes,

do not expect to get the total number of available points.

## **Section 6: The following syllabus items are required by Texas Tech University:**

### **1. Film Review - 10 points of extra credit \*if all criteria are met.\***

To view the criteria and see more information on this extra credit option, go back to our WebCT Homepage, Click "Extra Credit Options", then click "Film Review."

DUE DATE: Last day of January (No film reviews will be accepted after 1/31).

**2. Annotated Discography - 1 point per annotation \*if all criteria are met.\***

To view the criteria and see more information on this extra credit option, go back to our WebCT Homepage, Click "Extra Credit Options", then click "Annotated Discography."

Maximum of 30 annotations accepted per semester.

DUE DATE: Last day of February (No discographies will be accepted after 2/29).

**3. Extended Book Review and Discography - 15 points of extra credit \*if all criteria are met.\***

To view the criteria and see more information on this extra credit option, go back to our WebCT Homepage, Click "Extra Credit Options", then click "Book Review."

Maximum of 2 Book Reviews accepted per semester.

Due Date: Last day of March (No book reviews will be accepted after 3/31).

**4. Four-Page Research Paper - 40 points of extra credit \*if all criteria are met.\***

Requires notification of Instructor by February 23.

To view the criteria and see more information on this extra credit option, go back to our WebCT Homepage, Click "Extra Credit Options", then click "Research Paper."

Maximum ONE research paper accepted per semester.

DUE DATE: Last day of April (No Research Papers will be accepted after 4/30).

## **Section 7:**

### **Academic Integrity:**

It is the student's responsibility to know and understand Texas Tech University's policies, procedures, and penalties regarding academic integrity, as discussed in the Code of Student Rights,

Responsibilities, and Conduct. Negligence or ignorance of the policy will not be accepted as an excuse for violation of the policy. Cheating on examinations is likely to result in an F for the course.

### **ADA Compliance:**

Any student who because of a disability may require special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary accommodations. Student should present appropriate verification from AccessTECH. No requirement exists that accommodations be made prior to completion of this approved university procedure.

### **Class Attendance:**

1) Absences due to religious observance: \_ The Texas Tech University Catalog

(<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/officialpublications/catalog/GenInfo.pdf>)

states that a student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day will be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

2) Absences due to officially approved trips: \_

The Texas Tech University Catalog

(<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/officialpublications/catalog/GenInfo.pdf>)

states that the person responsible for a student missing class due to a trip should notify the instructors of the departure and return schedule in advance of the trip. The student may not be penalized and is responsible for the material missed.

**Last Day to drop a course:**

The 45th class day of the semester (March 12, 2008) is now the last day to drop a course. Please note that it is the student's responsibility to go to 101 West Hall to withdraw from a course. Also, please note that as of last year, it is no longer possible to receive a grade of "WF" for a course. If a class has not been dropped within the specified time period, the student must complete the course and receive a grade. If you need to drop the course for any reason, you MUST do so by March 12, 2008.