Let’s Rock-n-Roll! The Politics of Popular Music
Spring 2018

Instructor: Dr. Valerie Martinez
valmartinez@unt.edu
940-390-2304

Office Hours: Wooten 143, T-TH 1-2, F 1-2 and by appointment.
940-390-2304

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Focusing primarily in the United States, this course examines the influence of rock and roll and other popular music on politics and culture, as well as the influence of politics on music and the music industry from the mid-1950s to the present time. Music recordings and video, movies and documentaries will be used in combination with lectures and assigned readings to consider the relationship of music to race, sexuality, generational conflict, foreign policy and the electoral process. Specifically we will examine the role of music as a medium for encouraging or coping with political and social change as exemplified in (but not limited to) the civil rights movement, the countercultural movement, the women’s movement, and, of course, public response to American military actions in Vietnam and other places during this time period. Finally we will consider the intent and impact of musicians’ and the music industry’s efforts to draw public attention and financial support to national or international crises and U.S. presidential contests.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. There will be two Midterm Exams, Feb 15 and April 5, each worth 25 % of your final grade.
2. A Song Analysis paper, due March 8, worth 20 % of your final grade.
3. A Political Impact Assessment paper OR documentary video, due May 3, worth 20% of your final grade.
4. Class attendance and participation, worth 10% of your final grade.

From time to time, you will have a chance to earn extra credit points. Each properly completed extra credit is worth one to five points, which will be added directly to the test grades, as announced. Extra credit opportunities will be announced in class and/or posted on Blackboard at my discretion.

At the end of the semester, your grade will be based on the number of points you have accumulated out of the total possible 100 points.
90-100 = A, 80-89= B, 70-79= C, 60-69= D, <60= F

REQUIRED CLASS MATERIALS

The three books required for this class are available at the university bookstore but can also be purchased at Amazon.com and other online book sources for less money.


### iClicker POLLING FOR ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION GRADE

Engagement, participation and interaction are important elements of the learning process. To that end, **beginning January 25th**, we will be using iClicker Reef, so each student must be registered to iClicker Reef and have a device (computer, smartphone or tablet) for polling responses for this course. (Please see Dr. Martinez ASAP if you do not have access to one of these devices’)

Because iClicker Reef is flexible across devices, you may participate by choosing one of the two options below:

1. iClicker Reef app: You may use your own smartphone or tablet by downloading the app available for iOS and Android
2. iClicker Reef website – iclicker.com – for browser-based use
3. With either option, you will create an account with iClicker, select University of North Texas as your institution, and enter your EUID (your Blackboard login ID) in the Student ID (optional) space.

To add the course to your iClicker Reef list, log into Blackboard using a browser and click the link in this course. You’ll be directed to your iClicker Reef account. Log in as needed and the course will appear in your personal list.

Click on the course and JOIN when we are in session. Connecting via wifi in UNT classrooms is highly recommended.

**Grading:** You will receive 1 point for each answer recorded and occasionally an additional 1 point for a correct answer or for extra credit. The total number of points that you can earn during the semester is capped at 50. Since you will have the opportunity to answer more questions than are required to reach 50, you can still build 50 points even if you miss a couple of classes or answer some questions incorrectly. Further, because you will be given more than 50 points worth of polling questions throughout the semester, you may not make up missed questions, regardless whether you have forgotten to bring a response device, you are late to class, or you miss class. Again, there is no makeup for missed questions. (If you have extenuating circumstances, please notify me so that we may work together to ensure your success in learning the material.)
**Academic Integrity:** *Please note that the misuse of iClicker Reef will be considered a violation of proper student conduct and will be treated as cheating. For this class, iClicker Reef is to be used as a learning tool by you in the classroom. Misuse would include submitting answers for a friend who is not in attendance in class, submitting answers when you are absent, having someone else submit answers for you when you are absent, or any other use of iClicker Reef by which you are not submitting your own work in class.*

**OTHER IMPORTANT GUIDELINES**

1. **Lectures are not intended to regurgitate the material in the assigned reading.** Rather, you should do the reading before class and come prepared to delve into the more difficult concepts covered in the reading. You are ultimately responsible for the material in the readings and from class. If you are struggling with the reading, it is your responsibility to seek my help.

2. **I expect you to be attentive in class.** I strongly advise you to put your phone out of sight. Arriving late, leaving early, texting, talking on your cell phone or to persons sitting around you, surfing the web, or otherwise distracting your fellow students will not be tolerated. I will ask you to leave class. Repeated or egregious instances of classroom disruption will result in referral to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether your conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. Expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr.

3. **If you have a question or problem, please contact me by phone or email or better still come see me during office hours or by appointment.** DO NOT contact me thru Blackboard.

4. **UNT and I have a strict policy on cheating or plagiarism (see policy after class schedule below).** To avoid the charge of plagiarism, anytime you report the findings or opinions of another writer (even if it is paraphrased in your own words) you must cite the author, date and page number in parentheses immediately following a direct quote or at the end of the paragraph if the information is paraphrased (that means written in your own words). Example citations: (Martinez-Ebers 2010, p.13) or (http://www.dawn.com/2011/12/15/the-politics-of-music.html). Also include a reference page at the end of your paper with complete bibliographic information provided for every source cited in your paper.

5. **Make a duplicate of your class papers before you turn them in and put them away in a safe place.** Occasionally papers are misplaced and this protects you.

6. **All assignments and extra credit will be turned in electronically unless specified otherwise, and late assignments will not be accepted.** It is your responsibility to plan for possible computer problems and to contact the appropriate IT support person if you encounter problems with Blackboard.
7. I will communicate with the class via Blackboard and e-mail. You should set your Blackboard e-mail account to deliver messages to whichever e-mail address you regularly use. It is your responsibility to check that account regularly.

8. If you require an accommodation for a religious observance or for a disability, I am happy to oblige, but I will not do so on an ad hoc basis. If you require an accommodation for religious reasons, you must notify me in writing at least two weeks in advance. If you require an accommodation for a disability, you must provide me with appropriate documentation from ODA before I can assist you.

9. This syllabus serves as a guideline for your reading and preparation for exams. As your professor, I reserve the right to deviate from the syllabus when necessary. I will make every effort to announce changes at least 48 hours prior to the adjustment, but, ultimately, you are responsible for keeping in touch with me regarding changes.

10. I expect you to be present for each test unless you can provide a written excuse that I deem valid (illness severe enough to seek medical care; a summons to appear in court; or official representation of the university). Any other excuses will be considered case-by-case. Please follow these guidelines if you should find it necessary to miss a test:
   a. Please call or email me (valmartinez@unt.edu) as soon possible, preferably as soon as you know you are going to miss the exam.
   b. Submit verification/explanation on the day you return to class following the missed exam.

DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT ME IF YOU ARE HAVING A PROBLEM WITH THE COURSE. I MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU STUDY MORE EFFECTIVELY OR RECOMMEND ASSISTANCE ELSEWHERE ON CAMPUS. REMEMBER...I WANT YOU TO DO WELL IN THIS CLASS.

SEMESTER SCHEDULE

What follows is an approximate timetable for the covering of the topics planned for the course. The reading expected to be completed for each class is fixed without regard to our progress through the topics, unless I announce otherwise.

Part One: The Birth of Rock-n-Roll and a New Generation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 16</td>
<td>Introduction and overview to the class</td>
<td>No completed reading expected</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 18</td>
<td>The Power of Popular Music</td>
<td>Have read: “Music and Politics” reading on Blackboard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 23</td>
<td>The Emergence of Rock and Roll as Cultural Phenomenon</td>
<td>Have read: ASU 1</td>
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Jan 25  Crossing the Color Line: Rock-n-Roll and Race
Have read: RIT 1; ASU 2

Jan 30  All Shook Up! The Sexuality of Rock-n-Roll
Have read: ASU 3; RIT 2

Feb 1   Rock-n-Roll and Generational Conflict
Have read: ASU 4; RIT 3

Feb 6   Censorship
Have read ASU 5-6

Feb 8   The British Invasion of America
Have read: RIT 7 and part of RIT 8

Feb 13  Catch-up and review for Midterm

FEB 15  1st Midterm Exam

**Part Two: The Music of Change and Social Movements**

Feb 20-22  Let Freedom Sing: Music of the Civil Rights Movement
Have read: RIT 5-6

Feb 27-   Rock Against War: Songs of Protest (War)
March 1  Have read: RIT 12 and “War: Protest Songs…” on Blackboard

March 6-8 Woodstock Nation and Countercultural Movements (Woodstock)
Have read: RIT 10 and “Woodstock Politics and Music…” on Blackboard
Song Analysis paper due March 8

March 12-16 SPRING BREAK

March 20-22 Notes From the Underground: Rap and Urban Youth Empowerment
Have read: All of SS

March 27-29 I Am Woman Hear Me Roar
Have read: “Women” readings on Blackboard

April 3   Catch-up and review for Midterm

April 5   2nd Midterm Exam

**Part Three - If We Are The World, How Do We Change It?**

April 10  I can see Clearly Now: S/He’s Gone Country?
Have read: “God and Guns: Politics of Country Music” and “The Hardest Hate”on Blackboard
April 12  The Allure of White Power Rock
Have read: “Sounds of Hate” on Blackboard

April 17-19  Charity Rock and Mega Events (Charity)
Have read ASU 6 and “Charity” readings on Blackboard

April 24-26  Star Power? Rock The Vote and Other Political Maneuvers (Vote)
Have read: ASU Epilogue and “Vote” readings on Blackboard

May 1  The Persistent Power of Rock and Roll

May 3  Political Assessment Papers and Videos Due

POLITICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PAPER

The purpose of this paper is to evaluate the political influence of an individual or group or event in the music industry. You will select a subject of study approved first by Professor Martinez and use the theory or arguments presented by John Street and others we have discussed in class to examine the extent to which your subject of study (i.e. this person, group or event) influenced political action/behavior AND the extent to which the politics of the day influenced the subject’s actions/outcome.

You will write a 7-10 page paper (must be at least 2,500 words), not including a separate title page and separate references page(s), that: first provides a brief summary of the history or chronology of the subject; second, describe the theory or theories that best explain your subject; and third, identify and explain the reasons you think the subject did (or did not) influence the politics of the day.

POLITICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT VIDEO

Like the paper assignment, the purpose of the video is to assess the political influence of an individual or group or event in the music industry. You will select a subject of study approved first by Professor Martinez and use the theory or arguments presented by John Street and potentially others we have discussed in class to examine whether the subject of study influenced political action/outcome or the politics of the day influenced the subject’s actions/outcome.

You will create a at least a 10 minute video that: first provides a brief summary of the history or chronology of the subject; second identifies and explain the theory or theories that best characterize your subject and third identifies the reasons you think the subject did (or did not) influence the politics of the day.

Your video will be a tool of socialization; it may be aimed at high school children, college-age young adults, or recent immigrants. Be creative with your video: use interviews, music, imagery, dance, video graphics, and poetry, whatever you want. The
video itself must be posted to YouTube (set preferences to “unlisted”) or Vimeo (create a password to protect your video). You will then provide me with a link to the video and (if using Vimeo) your password.

In addition to the video, you will provide a 1-page memo that explains (a) who your target audience is; (b) what message you hope to convey; (c) your rationale for conveying the message the way you did; and (d) how your message connects to our class readings and content.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

I. Categories of Academic Dishonesty:
A. Cheating. The use of unauthorized assistance in an academic exercise, including but not limited to:

1. use of any unauthorized assistance to take exams, tests, quizzes or other assessments;
2. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems or carrying out other assignments;
3. acquisition, without permission, of tests, notes or other academic materials belonging to a faculty or staff member of the University;
4. dual submission of a paper or project, or re-submission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor;
5. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage on an academic assignment.
B. Plagiarism. Use of another's thoughts or words without proper attribution in any academic exercise, regardless of the student's intent, including but not limited to:

1. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement or citation.
2. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in selling term papers or other academic materials.
C. Forgery. Altering a score, grade or official academic university record or forging the signature of an instructor or other student.
D. Fabrication. Falsifying or inventing any information, data or research as part of an academic exercise.
E. Facilitating Academic Dishonesty. Helping or assisting another in the commission of academic dishonesty.
F. Sabotage. Acting to prevent others from completing their work or willfully disrupting the academic work of others.

II. Available Academic Penalties
The following academic penalties may be assessed at the instructor's discretion upon determination that academic dishonesty has occurred. Admonitions and educational assignments are not appealable.
A. Admonition. The student may be issued a verbal or written warning.
B. Assignment of Educational Coursework. The student may be required to perform additional coursework not required of other students in the specific course.

C. Partial or no credit for an assignment or assessment. The instructor may award partial or no credit for the assignment or assessment on which the student engaged in academic dishonesty, to be calculated into the final course grade.

University of North Texas-Statement of ADA Compliance
The Political Science Department cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request on or before the sixth class day (beginning of the second week of classes).

Please print the last page of the syllabus, sign it and turn it in to Professor Martinez before Jan 31.

University of North Texas-ADA and Plagiarism Compliance

This certifies that I have read the syllabus and understand the requirements for the course and the mandatory deportment policy. I also understand the Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism. I agree to abide by academic honesty outlined by the Center for Student Rights & Responsibilities www.unt.edu/csrr/ and have read the material about my rights and the sanctions that can be imposed if I violate the student code of conduct. I verify that all work done in this class will be my own, that I will cite or quote sources when I draw from other authors' material, and that I will present only accurate and truthful information to the professor and the teaching assistants. Furthermore I understand that violating the policy will result in an automatic "F" for the course and referral to the Dean of Students for disciplinary proceedings and dismissal.

Signature: _________________________________________ Date: ___________

Printed Name: ___________________________ EUID: ___________