Spring 2-1-2006

MUS 133L.50: History of Rock and Roll - Online

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History of Rock & Roll
MUS 133 • Online Course Syllabus

Your ‘Most Excellent’ Instructor

Instructor: Jeff Brandt, The “Unprofessor”, Professional Musician, Published Author, Decent Cook, Husband & Father, “Spinal Tap” Connoisseur, Fan of T-Shirt/Jeans Combo, and Lifelong Student of The History of Rock & Roll

Virtual Office: historyofrock@earthlink.net

Virtual Hours: Send me an e-mail, we'll chat in a virtual sense…

General Information That’ll Make You Smile

THESE THINGS ARE REQUIRED OF YOU:
- Sense of humor: You must be able to laugh at the fact that some of these folks fell ass-backward into careers in music and that some of them then just happened to become important. You must also laugh at trivial facts such as KISS first tried to market their band using the name FUCK. If you can’t laugh at this, please drop this course.
- Textbook/CD: History of Rock & Roll by Thomas E. Larson
- How to push “PLAY” on a stereo and listen to music (i.e. no “in-depth” knowledge of music is required)

OUR GOALS, STATED IN PROPER ‘ACADEMIC’ LINGO:
This course is designed to take the student through a history of Rock & Roll from its roots to its present form. In doing this, significant performing artists and trends within all styles of Rock & Roll will be identified and investigated. You will be spending your “class time” on power point summaries, lectures, videos, listening and assignments.

AND NOW, FOR THE REAL GOAL OF THIS COURSE:
Remember we are here to LEARN. This is supposed to be the most important aspect of any course. However, many-a-professor in their endless quest for higher academic social status, a wardrobe filled with tweed sport coats, or the desire to attain a parking space within physical reach of their office have conveniently forgotten this.

You will find that I am not one of these. First of all I don’t need the social status, I hate tweed, and I often bike to campus or walk to my home office. It is my intent to make this course as enjoyable and action-packed as possible. Given the fact that this is an online course, however some of the may fall a bit by the wayside as you flip from screen to screen through your power point presentations.

However, please keep in mind that ten years from now you may be socializing at a cocktail party and the following incident may occur. A conversation will be going on over by the table where those insidious mints are kept alongside the stale peanuts. You overhear what is being said: “Say, Jethro. What say you about the first and heaviest-ever metal band Led Zeppelin that we are now hearing over this magnificent, wireless Bose stereo system?” At this moment you’ll cozy up next to this “misinformed person” and politely let them know that actually Black Sabbath, NOT Zeppelin is considered to be the first true heavy metal band.

At this point, you may either walk away, congratulating yourself on your conversational conquer, or simply push up your glasses, look uncomfortably around and stuff your mouth full of some of those awful mints. The point is, however, that you might actually remember something from this course, and that it might affect at least some small part of your life somewhere down the road.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS:
If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share, please contact me immediately.
Attendance & Getting Out

SHOW UP OFTEN—THREE TIMES A WEEK, IN FACT:
Online attendance is required. You must log in every day, but (other than quizzes) you may complete your coursework any time of the day! The Instructor, however, will generally answer e-mails, respond to discussions, etc. during traditional work hours (M-W-F 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.) I will make a habit of checking regularly to see who is and who is not checking in… While this course is in action, think of me as your “big brother”—always watching…

GO OUT AT LEAST ONCE:
Students will be required to attend one (1) rock concert over the course of the term. For this assignment I prefer that students investigate the local scene rather than large established touring groups, such as Pearl Jam. In order to receive credit for attendance, students must turn in one-page typed summary about the event. If you have a chance, you might even risk meeting one of your online classmates to hop out to a gig. Events like this can sometimes bring the “virtual classroom” to life.

Your New Best Friend, How to Read, Listening

YOUR TEXTBOOK IS YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND:
The textbook is required for this course. It will be used both as a reference and for assignments (i.e., answering the “study questions”). Also, the midterm and final exams will be based on material that is found both in the lectures, the power point slides, and material that is exclusively in the text book. If you don’t read it carefully, you may miss something…

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO READ?
As a college freshman, I was taught an excellent lesson in a music course: “How to Read a Textbook”.
• First: read the front and the back of the book.
• Second: read the inside cover of the book.
• Third: thumb through the book to get a feel for the text…Are there a lot of photographs? Does this author use profanity? Can I easily find the headings to each subject or do I need to mark pages? etc.
• Fourth: read, no I mean really read the table of contents. This will give you a glance at the history of rock & roll in about two minutes.
• Finally: actually begin to read the text.

LISTENING TO THIS MOST EXCELLENT MUSIC:
Students will be expected to listen to all of the music for this course via e-res (on line @ www.lib.umt.edu or @ eres.lib.umt.edu). The password for this course is brandtmus133 (all lowercase, no punctuation & no spaces).

When listening to these partial cuts either within the context of the reading, power point lectures, or otherwise, keep in mind that for the test you will be required to know more than just the title/composer of each song. The midterm and final exam both require extended knowledge of each cut. Some of this information is detailed on the listening spreadsheet in the far right-hand column entitled “notes”.

Being Lame, Making Lars Angry, Grading

CHEATERS SUCK, BIGTIME:
If you have a plan or devise a plan to somehow cheat in this course, well, I hate you. Why oh why would someone ever want to do something like that? We are here to learn, enjoy and hopefully prosper in this lifetime because of our hard work, honest efforts, and respectable ethics. If I smell even one whiff of misconduct, not only are you on my “lame list for life”, but I will ask my witch friends in Boston to put a hex on you, your family, and your dog for the next 66.6 years. Cheating is lame, I tell you, lame. For the “official word” on cheating, refer to the next paragraph.

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code
All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/Index.cfm/page/1321.

BEWARE OF LARS:
Students are NOT to copy and save the CD “partial clip” recordings listed on e-res for use outside of this online course. (Wouldn’t you want the whole song anyway?) Doing so, is a violation of copyright laws and a risk that you might further offend Metallica drummer Lars Ulrich.
If you choose to illegally copy any of the copyrighted material in this course, remember that you have been officially warned. Neither the University of Montana, nor Jeff Brandt can claim responsibility for what happens when Mr. Ulrich shows up at your apartment with an extra large pair of drumsticks and two Italian thugs…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADING BREAKDOWN:</th>
<th>GRADING PERCENTAGES:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200 Points—Assignments, attendance, participation</td>
<td>90-100% = A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 Points—Writing Assignments (hi-lited in yellow)</td>
<td>80-89% = B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 Points—Mid-term Exam (hi-lited in green)</td>
<td>70-79% = C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 Points—Final Exam (hi-lited in green)</td>
<td>60-69% = D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Total Points Possible=500)</td>
<td>0-50% = Let’s not even talk about it.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Taking a class online is likely a new experience for most or all of you. Here are a few tips about how the class is "run" and how we will communicate.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
The instructor will post announcements, about the class and related topics, daily. The system administrator will sometimes post announcements about the Blackboard system. Note that you can view older announcements by clicking on the tabs near the top of the screen. Be sure to scroll down—there may be more than one announcement for the day.

COMMUNICATION:
Communication will take place using e-mail, discussion boards and the virtual classroom.
- E-mail should be used for “private” communication with the instructor or other students. Any questions regarding grades or communication about more personal issues should be handled via email.
- Discussion boards are appropriate for questions or discussions that would normally occur in the classroom. The virtual classroom includes a white board and chat facility and is used for synchronous (real-time) communication.
- You are strongly encouraged to find some online "study pals" in the class. Blackboard will allow us to set up private group areas with a private set of communication tools.

ASSIGNMENTS:
Assignments are to be submitted either via e-mail or the Digital Dropbox. The student manual (available at umonline.umt.edu) has fairly detailed instructions on using the Digital Dropbox. Here are some quick tips:

The Digital Dropbox is under Tools, and allows you to store your own files (Add option), or send a file to the Instructor's Digital Dropbox for grading (Send option). The most common mistake that students make is to Add files to their own Dropboxes rather than sending them to the instructor for grading. Remember the options: ADD sends files to YOUR dropbox, and can only be accessed by you. SEND puts files in MY dropbox where I can grade them.

NOTE: There are four “due dates” specified in the “Online Course Schedule”, which are hi-lited in red. Take note of these dates—your final grade depends upon it! I DO NOT WISH for assignments to be turned in "one-at-a-time". I find it easier to grade groups of assignments, rather than individual ones. If you wish you may turn your group of assignments in earlier, but they must be turned in together, as specified. Late work will NOT be accepted.

QUIZZES:
Quizzes will be given periodically with no prior notice. A link to the quizzes will appear in the announcements. Quizzes will be posted for 24 hours. You must log in each Monday, Wednesday & Friday to check for quizzes.

EXAMS:
For the midterm and final exams you will need to study all of the following: lecture notes, power point notes, textbook chapters, study questions, and the listening list examples. You will need to know this material cold as the test will only allow you 50 minutes to complete the exam. You will be allowed to use your textbook and notes for exams, but you won’t have time to look up the answers for every question. It may help you to actually copy the listening examples (that will be listed for your exam on e-res) to your hard drive for the test. This way you do not have to spend any time switching back and forth between the test and the library web page.

The exams are 100 questions in length and breakdown as follows: 40 general multiple choice, 20 matching, 10 true/false, 10 ordering (numbering in order), 30 multiple choice related to listening. So, in order to be successful with the exams, you must successfully complete two questions per minute. ANY STUDENT WHO MISSES THE FINAL EXAM WILL FAIL THE ENTIRE COURSE. (Re-read previous statement, so that my point is “crystal clear”.)
“People should envy us”... “I envy us”... “Ya, me too.”
—exchanges between lead singer David St. Hubbins & bassist Derek Smalls in *This is Spinal Tap*