

HISTORY 2134B
“Talkin’ ‘Bout My Generation”:
Youth, Rebellion and Rock’n’Roll

Winter Term 2021-22
Tuesdays 12:30 – 2:30 p.m., Location TBA
Course delivery: in-person

Instructor: Professor Aldona Sendzikas

Office Hours: TBA
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This is a draft syllabus. Please see your OWL course site for the final syllabus.

Course Description:

This course uses the cultural phenomenon of rock’n’roll as a lens to explore the connections between youth and rebellion and societal change in the latter half of the twentieth century. The spectacle of the performers and their lyrics will be used as historical texts to understand this change.

Antirequisite(s):

History 2706E

Course Syllabus:

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have:

- Developed a general knowledge of key personalities and events in the evolution of rock’n’roll, from its creation in the 1950s to the rock styles of today;
- Learned to understand the historical and social contexts in which rock’n’roll began and developed;
- Learned to understand the role of the Baby Boom generation in the evolution of rock’n’roll, and the role of rock music as a symbol of identity for successive generations of young people;
- Familiarized themselves with a number of key primary documents of the period and evaluated their historical value and significance, alone and in relation to other sources;
- Examined some of the cultural artifacts of the period and learned to understand their significance (*egs.*, song lyrics, album covers, reviews, films, photographs, and media coverage).

Expectations:

- Attendance at all lectures.
- Completion of each week's assigned readings, before the start of that week's lecture.
- Courtesy and respect towards other members of the class.
- Be present! Turn off cell phones and other electronic devices. Laptops are allowed if used to take notes and/or to refer to online course materials; they are NOT to be used for any other purpose during class
- Completion and prompt submission of all written assignments.

Course Materials:***Required Texts:***

- David Brackett, *The Pop, Rock and Soul Reader: Histories and Debates* (4th edition) (Oxford University Press, 2020). This book will be available for purchase in the Western Bookstore.
- One book (of the student's choice) about a rock musician or band. The book can be biographical, autobiographical, or an exploration of the artist's/band's music. You will be asked to write a short paper based on this book.
- Additional weekly articles and other materials will be assigned and made available online on the OWL course website.

Methods of Evaluation:***Assignments and Marks Distribution:***

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| • Short paper (4-5 typed, double-spaced pages) (due March 15 th) | 20% |
| • 4 response papers (1-2 typed, double-spaced pages) | 15% |
| • Midterm exam (in class, February 15 th) | 30% |
| • Final exam (during April exam period) | 35% |

Midterm exam:

There will be a 2 hour midterm exam that will be written in class on February 15th. It will consist of short answer and essay questions.

Final exam:

There will be a 2 hour final exam that will take place during the April exam period. It will focus on material covered since the midterm exam, and will consist of short answer and essay questions.

Written assignments

Written assignments must be submitted at the specified time on the due date, in hard copy as well as in electronic form via the submission link on the OWL course website. (By using the submission link on the course website, your paper will automatically be submitted to Turnitin.com.)

Further instructions regarding the above assignments will be provided in class.

Late assignments: A late penalty of 2% for each day (including Saturdays and Sundays) will be incurred for all written work submitted after the due date and time. Papers submitted on the due date but after the due time will be considered late and will be penalized 2%. Keep a copy of each of your written assignments until you receive the grade for it.

Accommodation for missed midterms, including Self-Reported Absences (SRA):

Students with an approved absence from an in-class midterm exam will be required to write a make-up exam.

Students should be aware that the make-up exam will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

The make-up exam will take place on **February 28th, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.**

No other make-up opportunities will be provided. Students who fail to write a make-up exam in the designated time slot will receive a grade of zero.

Course professors may not be available to respond to questions during the make-up slot.

Students should be aware that when they have submitted a SRA for one test or exam, they are not permitted to write a test/exam or complete an assignment for another course during the period covered by the SRA. Failure to observe this regulation will result in the cancellation of the SRA and the possible application of late penalties.

Accommodation for missed assignment deadlines with a Self-Reported Absence (SRA):

If a student reports a SRA for an assignment (*e.g.*, a short paper) the new due date will be 48 hours after the SRA was submitted. For example, if you submit a SRA on March 19th at 3pm, your new due date will be March 21st at 3pm.

Use of Electronic Devices:

Students may use laptops during class to access course readings and to take notes, but not for any other purposes. The use of other electronic devices are not permitted during class. No electronic devices are permitted during the midterm exam or the final exam.

Additional Statements

Academic Offences:

Please review the Department of History Course Must-Knows document, <https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/Docs/Department%20of%20History%20Course%20Must-Knows.pdf>, for additional information regarding:

- Academic Offences
- Accessibility Options
- Medical Issues
- Plagiarism
- Scholastic Offences
- Copyright
- Health and Wellness

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Student Accessibility Services at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Heidi Van Galen, Administrative Officer, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84963 or e-mail vangalen@uwo.ca.