

**College of San Mateo**  
**Official Course Outline**

1. **COURSE ID:** MUS. 210    **TITLE:** From Blues to Hip Hop: A History of American Popular Music  
**Units:** 3.0 units    **Hours/Semester:** 48.0-54.0 Lecture hours; and 96.0-108.0 Homework hours  
**Method of Grading:** Letter Grade Only  
**Recommended Preparation:**  
Eligibility for ENGL 838 or ENGL 848 or ESL 400.

2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**

**Degree Credit**

**Transfer credit:** CSU

**AA/AS Degree Requirements:**

CSM - GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: E5c. Humanities

3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

**Catalog Description:**

This course will closely examine the history and development of American popular music, and its integration with general culture and society. This course will include identification and analysis of blues, rock, R&B, Reggae, Hip Hop, Latin Rock, and other musical genres.

4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:

1. Identify and analyze the differences and similarities between performance styles and compositional techniques of popular music.
2. Conceptualize a timeline tracing the prior influences and later evolution of each musical style or genre.
3. Explain how popular music reflects and influences changes in sexual, racial, economic, and class identities and attitudes in America.
4. Analyze the history of popular music in terms of technological advances in both music production and media distribution.

5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Identify and analyze the differences and similarities between performance styles and compositional techniques of popular music.
2. Conceptualize a timeline tracing the prior influences and later evolution of each musical style or genre.
3. Explain how popular music reflects and influences changes in sexual, racial, economic, and class identities and attitudes in America.
4. Analyze the history of popular music in terms of technological advances in both music production and media distribution.

6. **COURSE CONTENT:**

**Lecture Content:**

African roots and European influences in the Blues, such as vocal nuance, gospel, and religious influences (SLO 2)

Ragtime and Swing eras. Pop music of the early 1900's-1940's and their social similarities to current pop trends. (SLO 1,2,3)

Transformation from blues to rock. -Little Richard, Chuck Berry, Jerry Lee Lewis (SLO 1,2,3,4)

Emergence of the vocalists Pop Music of the 1950's - Elvis Presley, Teen Idols, Doo Wop, Surf, Instrumentalists (1,2,3,4)

American blues influences on the bands of the British Invasion - Beatles, Rolling Stones, The Kinks, The Who (1,2,3,4)

African American rise of Soul - The Supremes, The Temptations, Sam and Dave, Aretha Franklin (1,2,3)

Social awareness and Psychedelic music of the 1960's-Jimi Hendrix, Jefferson Airplane, Grateful Dead  
Country Rock-The Eagles, Crosby Stills and Nash

Folk Singer/Songwriters - Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Joni Mitchell, Carole King

Influences of multicultural music in rock and pop music. Reggae/World Beat - Bob Marley, Jimmy Cliff, Paul Simon, The Police

Emergence of Latin rock, and the comparison to early New Orleans Caribbean influences. - Santana, Malo,

Azteca

Progressive Rock -Emerson Lake and Palmer, Pink Floyd Yes, David Bowie, Queen

Punk Rock - Sex Pistols, The Ramones

Funk and the similarities with the soul movement - James Brown, Sly Stone, Earth, Wind and Fire, Parliament, Funkadelic

Rise and fall of Disco - Bee Gees, Donna Summer

Hard Rock/Heavy Metal - Black Sabbath, Led Zeppelin

Emergence of horn bands, Jazz-Rock Blood Sweat and Tears, Chicago, Tower of Power

Impact of media on rock and pop music. New Wave/MTV - Blondie, the Cars

Arena Rock - Metallica, Boston, Journey, Nirvana, Pearl Jam

Emergence of Rap - DJ Kool, A Tribe Called Quest

Hip Hop - Run DMC, DJ Kool Herc, Grandmaster Flash

Stars of the 1980's - Madonna, Whitney Houston, Mariah Carey, Michael Jackson, Prince, Bruce Springsteen

Rock Stars of the 1990's -Van Halen, Aerosmith

Pop stars of the 2000's and beyond - Lady Gaga, Radiohead, U2, Jay-Z

## 7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Critique
- C. Directed Study
- D. Discussion
- E. Guest Speakers

## 8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

### **Writing Assignments:**

Complete chapter worksheets and quizzes.

Attend a live concert and write a concert review.

Song report-research and write about why some artists remain popular.

### **Reading Assignments:**

Read textbook and complete worksheets pertaining to each chapter.

### **Other Outside Assignments:**

Research and oral presentations of designated personalities in popular music.

## 9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Class Performance
- C. Class Work
- D. Exams/Tests
- E. Homework
- F. Oral Presentation
- G. Papers
- H. Written examination

## 10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Theo Cateforis. *The Rock History Reader*, Second ed. New York: Routledge, 2013

**Origination Date:** October 2017

**Curriculum Committee Approval Date:** December 2017

**Effective Term:** Fall 2018

