

Elective course “The History of Rock. Part One”

Abstract: This course, part 1 of a 2-course sequence, examines the history of rock, primarily as it unfolded in the United States, from the days before rock (pre-1955) to the end of the 1960s. This course covers the music of Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry, Phil Spector, Bob Dylan, the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Jimi Hendrix, Cream, and many more artists, with an emphasis both on cultural context and on the music itself. We will also explore how developments in the music business and in technology helped shape the ways in which styles developed.

Learning Objectives: You will get to know the chronology of rock movement from its emergence until present days. You will look on the history of rock through biographies and ideas of the key members of the rock movement.

Learning Outcomes: Rock emerged in the mid 1950s as a blending of mainstream pop, rhythm and blues, and country and western--styles that previously had remained relatively separate. This new style became the music of the emerging youth culture and was often associated with teen rebellion. We will follow the story of how this rowdy first wave of rock and roll (1955-59) was tamed in the early 60s but came roaring back with the Beatles and the Rolling Stones and then went psychedelic by the end of the decade.

Plan:

- a. The World Before Rock and Roll (1900-1955)
- b. The Birth and First Flourishing of Rock and Roll (1955-59)
- c. The Demise of Rock and the Promise of Soul (1959-63)
- d. The Beatles and the British Invasion (1964-66)
- e. American Responses (1965-67)
- f. Motown Pop and Southern Soul (1960-69)
- g. Psychedelia (1966-69)

Grading System: 10-point scale

Guidelines for Knowledge Assessment:

Students are offered with the next essay themes:

1. Musical and commercial origins of Rock and roll.
2. The main stars of early Rock and roll: their evolution crisis and its overcoming.
3. It's the producer who talks: promotion of the musical product in the middle of the XX century.
4. Phenomenon of “British Invasion”.
5. Folk Renaissance in USA.
6. Blues and Soul – cultural modalities of “black” music.
7. Psychedelic revolution: epoch of open-air.
8. Underground, garage, DIY – alternative dimension of pop music.

Test questions (examples):

1. Which songs/musicians/institutions/technologies prepared prewar musical business to his subsequent pop revolution?

2. Point out the time range when Rock and roll formed and became popular. Name the general agents of this process.
3. When was the first time death of rock was declared and what was the reason of it?
4. Who are authors of Brill Building and how did they influence pop music?
5. What is accepted periodization of Bob Dylan's work?
6. Name the general sources of Soul music and artists working in this genre. Who is considered to be "king of Soul" and why?
7. What are the main factors of formation of separate sound recording and distribution culture of "black" music in USA?
8. What are the role and meaning of Phil Spector in history of music and sound recording?
9. What are the main theses of life philosophy of Hippy movement?
10. What was the influence of psychedelia on the following development of pop music?

Test on the definitions:

1. What musical traditions formed Rock and roll?
2. What meanings of the word cover do you know?
3. Name the general reasons of Elvis Presley's popularity. What are similarities/differences between him and "black" musicians?

Methods of Instruction: Video lectures.

Literature:

1. The Rock History Reader / ed. by Theo Cateforis. New York: Routledge, 2007. <https://b-ok.cc/book/616677/bcad85>

2. *Kajanova Y.* On the History of Rock Music. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2014. <https://b-ok.cc/book/2950727/82f691>