

Elective course “The History of Rock. Part Two”

Abstract: This course, part 2 of a 2-course sequence, examines the history of rock, primarily as it unfolded in the United States, from the early 1970s to the early 1990s. This course covers the music of Led Zeppelin, the Allman Brothers, Carole King, Bob Marley, the Sex Pistols, Donna Summer, Michael Jackson, Madonna, Prince, Metallica, Run-DMC, and Nirvana, 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: Emerging out of the experimental and ambitious years of late-60s psychedelia, rock splintered into a variety of styles in the 1970s as the music business continued to expand. By the end of the decade, punk and disco had challenged the excesses of the hippie aesthetic, as rock became more commercially streamlined and radio friendly. The emergence and rise of MTV transformed pop music and propelled the careers of Michael Jackson and Madonna, while heavy metal and hip hop dominated the late 1980s. Nirvana leads alt-rock's return to simplicity in the early 1990s.

Plan:

- a. The Growing Rock Monster (1970-77)
- b. Black Pop, Reggae, and the Rise of Disco (1970-79)
- c. Mainstream Rock, Punk, and New Wave (1975-79)
- d. I Want My MTV (1980-89)
- e. Heavy Metal, Rap, and Indie Rock (1980-89)
- f. Alternative Rock, Rock Alternatives, and Widening Gaps (the 1990s)

Grading System: 10-point scale

Guidelines for Knowledge Assessment:

What is album-oriented rock, what is ideological difference between it and other rock and why does it emerge in the end of the 60's – beginning of the 70's?

Blues rock: its themes, similarities and differences between it and blues.

Funk as a form of “black” nationalism, form of a “black” statement and a predecessor of hip-hop: structure, ideology, method.

What is mainstream rock and what are its defining features?

Psychedelic rock as a method of escape from reality: its ideological and structural features.

Reggae, its ideological and structural features, and the reason why it is considered to be a liturgical music.

Disco as a political statement: forms, methods, consequences.

Features of punk subculture in comparison with preceding subcultures.

Political and methodological meaning of punk.

Post-punk (new wave): reasons of emergence, structural and ideological features.

Structural and ideological features of heavy metal.

Reasons why heavy metal remains racially segregated white music.

Characterize musical features of the 70's and their outcome.

Structural and speech features of rap (hip-hop) as a poetical statement.

Hip-hop as a form of an urban guerilla: basis, forms, methods.

What is alternative rock? How does it differ from indie rock?

Video as a new form of pop musical statement: reasons and methods of visualization of the musical content (using examples from MTV), and the reason why MTV turned away from musical format in the 90's.

Electronic music of the 90's: its features and reasons of its popularity.

Reasons of diversification of pop musical stage in the 90's and the dawn of rock band format.

Females in 90's pop music: their status, reasons of their marginalization and methods of overcoming it.

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>