Montgomery County Community College
MUS 111
History of Rock and Roll
3-3-0

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course will explore the origins and development of popular music in America, from ragtime and blues, through rockabilly and the British invasion, to punk, rap, and heavy metal. Students will gain an understanding of a variety of popular styles and artists, as well as discover how popular music reflected and influenced the changing social and cultural norms of America. In addition to the in-class activities and assessments, every student will be required to write a research paper on a specific topic related to the course (approved by the instructor).

PREREQUISITE(S):
Students must have successfully completed or tested out of ENG 011 or ESL 011, and REA 011 or REA 017.

CO-REQUISITE(S):
None

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEARNING OUTCOMES</th>
<th>LEARNING ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>EVALUATION METHODS</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Explain how popular music in the 20th century reflected and influenced the</td>
<td>Written Assignments</td>
<td>Research Paper</td>
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<td>political, social, economic, and cultural norms of America.</td>
<td>Library and Web-Based Research Assignments</td>
<td>Weekly Assignments</td>
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<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>Written Tests</td>
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<td>Short In-Class Writing Assignments</td>
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<td>Guided Listening Activities</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Viewing and Discussion of Video Performances and Documentaries</td>
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| 2. Recognize and identify specific examples of American popular music genres      | Written Assignments                                                               | Weekly Assignments                      |
| including ragtime, rockabilly, swing, blues, rock, disco, punk, rap, and heavy    | Library and Web-Based Research Assignments                                        | Written Tests                           |
| metal.                                                                           | Research Paper                                                                    |                                        |
|                                                                                  | Short In-Class Writing Assignments                                                |                                        |
|                                                                                  | Guided Listening Activities                                                       |                                        |
|                                                                                  | Viewing and Discussion of Video Performances and Documentaries                    |                                        |
### LEARNING OUTCOMES

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<td>3. Explain the lyrical and musical content (instrumentation, form, harmony, and rhythm) associated with specific examples of American popular music.</td>
<td>Written Assignments&lt;br&gt;Library and Web-Based Research Assignments&lt;br&gt;Research Paper&lt;br&gt;Short In-Class Writing Assignments&lt;br&gt;Guided Listening Activities&lt;br&gt;Viewing and Discussion of Video Performances and Documentaries</td>
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At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that 70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria.

### SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

#### I. The World Before Rock and Roll

- **A.** Jazz becomes popular music
  - 1. The Original Dixieland Jazz Band
  - 2. Louis Armstrong
  - 3. Swing music
- **B.** Tin Pan Alley
  - 1. George Gershwin
  - 2. Irvin Berlin
  - 3. Tin Pan Alley song form
  - 4. Crooners
- **C.** Technology
  - 1. Phonograph
  - 2. AM radio
  - 3. Microphone

#### II. Blues

- **A.** Mississippi delta
- **B.** Chicago blues
- **C.** Boogie-woogie
- **D.** Jump bands
- **E.** Blues shouters

#### III. Three Tributaries

- **A.** Pop music
- **B.** Country music & western swing
- **C.** Rhythm & blues
IV. Rock Erupts
   A. Baby boomers (youth culture)
      1. Hollywood
      2. Alan Freed
   B. Technology
      1. Television
      2. 45 RPM record
      3. Electric guitar
   C. Independent record labels “indies”
   D. Early rock styles
      1. Doo-wop
      2. Gospel shouters
      3. White covers
      4. Rockabilly

V. End of the Golden Era
   A. The payola hearings
   B. The day the music died

VI. Calm Before the Storm (The Camelot Years)
   A. Production rock
      1. American bandstand
      2. Brill building
      3. Motown
      4. Teen idols
      5. Dance craze
      6. Girl groups
   B. Soul
      1. Soulsville (Stax records)
      2. Muscle Shoals sound
   C. Surf rock
      1. Vocal
      2. Instrumental

VII. The British Invasion
   A. The skiffle craze
   B. Beatlemania
      1. The merseybeat sound
   C. The London sound
      1. British blues
   D. The mods
   E. American reaction to the British invasion

VIII. The Music of the Counterculture
   A. The beats
   B. The folk-revival
   C. Folk-rock
   D. Psychedelic rock
      1. Electric kool-aid acid test
      2. Acid rock (Los Angeles)
E. San Francisco
   1. Flower power

IX. Rock & Roll Sub-Styles of the 1970s
A. British rock
B. Heavy metal
C. Progressive rock
D. Glitter glam rock
E. Theatre-rock
F. Art rock
G. American styles
   1. California country rock
   2. Southern rock
   3. American progressives
   4. Roots rock
   5. Funk
   6. Disco

X. Generation X (mid-1970s - early 1980s)
A. New York’s art rock
B. Shock rock
C. Punk music
   1. New York
   2. Britain
D. New wave
   1. New York
   2. Britain
E. British rock
F. Techno-rock
G. British post-punk
H. Jamaican influences
   1. Ska
   2. Reggae

XI. 1980s: The MTV Generation
A. Rap/hip-hop
   5. West coast gangsta rap (late 1980s)
B. Rock/pop styles (mid 1980s-1990s)
   1. Heavy metal (1980s)
   2. Mainstream pop
   3. Neo-folk (1980s-1990s)
   4. Hard-core punk (1980s)
   5. Athens, Georgia
C. MTV
D. Benefit concerts

XII. The Last Decade of the 20th Century (1990s)
A. Industrial rock
B. Alternative rock
C. Rapcore
D. The female rock explosion
E. Boy group craze
F. The decline of the rock industry

LEARNING MATERIALS: Update if needed

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

COURSE APPROVAL:
Prepared by: Michael Simmons and Andrew Koscieszka Date: 9/9/2011
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:
Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D. Date: 11/21/2011

Revised by: Andrew Koscieza Date: 3/7/2013
Revised by: Andrew Koscieza Date: 1/2014
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Date: 1/5/2014

This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College’s mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.