



Course Title: Music in Twentieth Century Britain

Instructor: Dr Matthew Shlomowitz

Course Objectives:

This course will examine a wide range of musical styles important in twentieth century Britain. We will consider music-making from diverse settings: the South London Anglo-Caribbean community to “Madchester” all-night parties; rural folk clubs to The Beatles; and coal-mine brass bands to Progressive Rock. We will examine the music itself – the nature of the musical material, the forms, the instrumentation etc. - as well as the cultural, political and economic context in which it was created. Each course will be modified to focus on concerts the class will attend.

Course Learning Outcomes:

- Introduction to a range of historical musical styles.
- To develop an analytical understanding of music.
- To consider music in its social context.
- Introduction to scholarship on music.

Required Text:

Nicholas Cook. *Music: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press, 1998.

Topics covered will include:

- Instrumentation
Roles within a band: “rhythm section” vs. “lead” instruments
Beyond the rock “quartet”: inclusion of non-western, orchestral & electronic instruments.
- Musical structure
Early 1960s paradigm shift from cyclic blues chord progressions towards the chorus/verse model.
Expectations and the role of the listener

Pre-1950

Parent/Victorian culture: the “Pastoral” style.
British Folk Music

Due to the evolving situations, the topics, co-curricular activities and the readings used for this course are subject to change. An updated outline and schedule is given to students at the start of each course.

- Music and subculture
The rise of the teenager
Teddy boys, Mods, Rockers and Rude boys
Hip vs. Square, and self identity through music
- The Beatles
Early period: Beatlemania
Middle period: beyond love songs.
Late period experimentation
The films of The Beatles.
- Progressive Rock
Art rock: fusion of classical and rock music
Middle class music, virtuosity and concept albums
- Punk & Reggae
Anarchy (The Sex Pistols) vs. Left Wing politics (The Clash)
Race Riots and the music of new immigrants
- Experimental & post-modern music
Graphic scores, performance art & rethinking just about everything.
Music "about" music.
- Madchester: The Second Summer of Love
House music and the rise of the DJ
Music and lifestyle

Field trips will include:

- Three concerts - classical, jazz and pop/rock

Assessment Plan:

- Class Participation (including two presentations): 20%
- A two page summary of a chapter from the text book: 20%
- Research Paper: 30%
- Final Exam: 30%

Instructional Methods:

Lecture, discussion, group projects, DVDs and CDs

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