Course Overview:
This course explores the historical development of Anglo-American rock-and-roll through lecture, video and sound recordings. The Szatmary reading provides a brief but thorough introduction to the socio-cultural and musical movements that motivated developments in the history of rock-and-roll from rhythm-and-blues to Radiohead and beyond. Class lecture will explore key stylistic changes that marked the transformation of blues to early rock through the development of today’s eclectic genres, as well as how performers play with gender and sexuality in popular music. Along the way, rock-and-roll has inspired many films in varied categories that capture the essence of the historical moment in which they were produced or the era they depict. The course thus will explore the ways in which rock-and-roll has been represented in film, with an accompanying series featuring documentaries, concert films, musicals and more. Students will gain a greater understanding of the socio-cultural contexts that informed stylistic change and issues related gender and sexuality, while considering the continued relevancy of rock today.

Required Texts: (Available at the Campus Bookstore and on Reserve.)


Additional materials may be placed on Nexus or on reserve, or distributed in class.

Evaluation:
Grading will be based on the following assignments –

Video Analysis Assignments (Video Link plus 250 words) (4 at 5pts each)  20pts

Students will select appropriate video examples from Vimeo or Youtube and offer critical commentary on how each connects with reading assigned for that day. Everyone must complete one of these on Chapter 2 (Elvis), then may select any three from the remaining Chapters that will be
discussed throughout the term, though at least one of the additional Video Analyses must be completed before Quiz #1. (Revisions accepted) **Clarify – 2 total to be completed before Quiz #1 and 2 total before Quiz #2 (to allow time for feedback – though revision possible write each as if final – remember that grades will be averaged (draft and revision)**

**Movie Analysis Assignments (500 -750 words) 15pts**

(2 at 7.5pts each)

The class will watch one film representing rock from different eras and in different styles each Tuesday beginning week 2 through week 9 (see Film Series). Each student will select two of these to write a critical analysis about due the following Monday (clarify – due before the following film viewing Tuesday at 7pm); one selected from the first four films and the other from the latter four films. These films, plus a body of related work, will be placed on reserve in the library. (Revisions accepted)

**Two Essay Take-home Quizzes (1200-1500 words) 25pts**

(2 at 12.5pts each)

Take-home quizzes based on reading, in-class musical analysis and discussion.

**Final Project (Creative Options) 30pts**

- Proposal (Group Oral Presentation) 5pts
- Creative Project (Rock Song, Film, etc.) 15pts
- Final Paper (1000 words) 10pts

Students will work in groups of 3-4 on a creative project that embraces the topics introduced in class. This may include forming a band, composing a song in a style that reflects one of the historical periods we will be covering and performing live at the end of the term; creating a short film in a style covered in class (e.g. documentary, music video, “mockumentary,” etc.); or developing a creative option of your own design (with faculty approval). **Please note that there is a mandatory class meeting at night on Friday, June 6th for these final performances and presentations.**

**Class Participation** 10pts

Final Grades: 93+ A, 90-93 A-, 87-89 B+, 84-86 B, 80-83 B-, 77-79 C+, 74-76 C, 70-73 C-, 67-69 D+, 64-66 D, 60-63 D-, 59 or below F.

All assignments must be submitted by the dates and times as indicated. Any late work will be penalized with a full grade deduction per each day late. If there is any legitimate
reason that you cannot take a quiz or turn in a paper on time, you must inform me in advance. **All assignments must be completed to pass the course.**

**In-class expectations:**
Students are expected to practice proper classroom etiquette. Students must also complete assignments as indicated in the schedule AND be prepared to discuss them in class. Indeed, lively discussion is absolutely essential in this course, therefore please take adequate notes on your reading and listening to allow you to contribute to the group. We may not discuss everything in the reading. Rather we will use class time to expand on the materials you cover on your own. If you have any questions or concerns about how to improve your discussion techniques, and in turn your class participation grade, please see me during the term. Please remember that your class participation grade is entirely separate from your grades on your written work. Regular attendance AND participation thus are both absolutely necessary to successfully complete this course. Greater than 6 absences (equivalent to two weeks of class or 20% of the term) will result in failure of the course.

**Drafts and Revisions:**
- If you have concerns about your writing, you are encouraged to submit drafts for suggestions ahead of analysis assignment deadlines.
- You do have the option, however, to rewrite any of the analysis assignments BUT NOT the take-home quizzes or the final project.
- All rewrites must be turned in no later than one week after I have returned the original batch of graded assignments to the class. This means that if for some reason you have turned in the assignment late, the rewrite is still due when everyone else’s rewrite is due.
- Please send rewrites as an attachment to e-mail.
- The rewrite grade will be averaged with the original grade to determine the final grade for that assignment.
- Rewrites are NOT automatically graded higher than the original version.
- Rewrite means “to write again,” not just to correct a few grammatical errors that I have pointed out. It is an opportunity to rethink your work and to improve it, and the assignment should display that effort.

**Honor Code:**
Union College recognizes the need to create an environment of mutual trust as part of its educational mission. Responsible participation in an academic community requires respect for and acknowledgement of the thoughts and work of others, whether expressed in the present or in some distant time and place.

Matriculation at the College is taken to signify implicit agreement with the Academic Honor Code, available at honorcode.union.edu. It is each student’s responsibility to ensure that submitted work is his or her own and does not involve any form of academic misconduct. Students are expected to ask their course instructors for clarification regarding, but not limited to, collaboration, citations, and plagiarism. Ignorance is not an excuse for breaching academic integrity.
Students are also required to sign a “Full Affirmation” of the Honor Code (distributed in class).

PLEASE DO NOT BE TEMPTED TO USE VIDEO AND/OR FILM REVIEWS AVAILABLE IN-PRINT OR ON-LINE WITHOUT PROPER CITATIONS!!!!

Students with Disabilities:
Please note that any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak to me by the end of the second week of the term. All discussions will remain confidential, although the Dean of Students may be consulted to verify the documentation of the disability.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week 1
Mon 3/31 – Is Rock-and-Roll Still Relevant?

Weds 4/2 – From Blues to the beginning of Rock & Roll
   Reading: Szatmary Intro (xiii-xviii) and Chap 1 (1-28)
   Review Video Analysis Assignment

Fri 4/4 – Elvis and Rockabilly
   Reading: Szatmary Chap 2 (29-54)
   REQUIRED - Video Analysis due on Nexus before class

Week 2
Mon 4/7 – The Teen Market; Surfboards and Hot Rods (Beach Boys)
   Reading: Szatmary Chap 3 and 4 (55-79)
   Video Analysis Due on Nexus before class
   Review Movie Analysis Assignment

   4/8 Tuesday Film Series: Chuck Berry: Hail! Hail! Rock ‘n’ Roll
   ARTS 215 7-9:30pm

Weds 4/9 – The New Frontier (Seeger, Dylan, Kingston Trio)
   Reading: Szatmary Chap 5 (80-101)
   Video Analysis due on Nexus before class

Fri 4/11 – British Invasion (The Beatles, the Monkees)
   Reading: Szatmary Chap 6 (102-120)
   Video Analysis Due on Nexus before class

Week 3
Mon 4/14 – British Blues Invasion (Rolling Stones, The Who, Yardbirds)
Reading: Szatmary Chap 7 (121-134)
Video Analysis due on Nexus before class
Movie Analysis due on Nexus before class

4/15 Tuesday Film Series: *Gimme Shelter (Rolling Stones)*
*ARTS 215 7-9:30pm*

Wed 4/16 – Motown
Reading: Szatmary Chap 8 (135-146)
Video Analysis due on Nexus before class

Fri 4/18 – Acid Rock (Haight-Ashbury)
Reading: Szatmary Chap 9 (147-169)
Video Analysis due on Nexus before class

**Week 4**
Mon 4/21 – Fire from the Streets (Protest Music, Soul, Funk)
Reading: Szatmary Chap 10 (170-185)
Video Analysis due on Nexus before class
Movie Analysis due on Nexus before class

4/22 Tuesday Film Series: *Pink Floyd: Live at Pompeii*
*Emerson Auditorium 7-9:30pm*

Wed 4/23 – Guitar Heroes and Heavy Metal
Reading: Szatmary Chap 11 (186-205)
Video Analysis due on Nexus before class

Fri 4/25 – Review Take Home Quiz #1

**Week 5**
Mon 4/28 – **Quiz #1 due on Nexus before class**
Movie Analysis due on Nexus before class

“*Voice Your Choice*”
Video-conference with Kathryn Metz at the Rock-and-Roll Hall of Fame. After discussing how the Rock-and-Roll Hall of Fame selects inductees, each student will argue for why a performer(s) of his or her choice should be inducted. Well-constructed arguments will be seriously considered.

4/29 Tuesday Film Series: *Tommy (The Who)*
*Emerson Auditorium 7-9:30pm*

Wed 4/30 – Country Rock (Lynard Skynard, The Band);
Escaping into the 1970s
(Progressive Rock, Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young)
Reading: Szatmary Chap 12 and 13 (206-225)
Video Analysis due on Nexus before class
Review Final Project Guidelines

Fri 5/2 – Era of Excess
   Reading: Szatmary Chap 14 (226-245)
   Video Analysis due on Nexus before class

**Week 6**
Mon 5/5 – Punk (New Wave)
   Reading: Szatmary Chap 15 (246-271)
   Video Analysis due on Nexus before class
   Movie Analysis due on Nexus before class

*5/6 Tuesday Film Series: The Filth and the Fury (The Sex Pistols)*
*Emerson Auditorium 7-9:30pm*

Weds 5/7 – American Hardcore (and maybe some Japanese?)
   Reading: Szatmary Chap 16 (272-278)
   Video Analysis due on Nexus before class

**Group Oral Presentations to be scheduled this week**

Fri 5/9 – Steinmetz (**class will not meet**)
Video Analysis due on Nexus before class
Movie Analysis due on Nexus before class

5/20 Tuesday Film Series: Spinal Tap (turn it up to 11!)
Emerson Auditorium 7-9:30pm

Weds 5/21 – Post-Grunge (Radiohead, Oasis)
  Reading: Szatmary Chap 22 (342-349)
  Video Analysis due on Nexus before class

Fri 5/23 – Hip-Hop Nation
  Reading: Szatmary Chap 23 (350-371)
  Video Analysis due on Nexus before class

Week 9
Mon 5/26 – Rockin in the 21\textsuperscript{st} century; Internet
  Reading: Szatmary Chap 24 and 25 (372-391)
  Video Analysis due on Nexus before class
  Movie Analysis due on Nexus before class

5/27 Tuesday Film Series: Pearl Jam 20
Emerson Auditorium 7-9:30pm

Weds 5/28 – Wartime; Country Counter Culture
  Reading: Szatmary Chap 26 and Chap 27 (392-414)
  Video Analysis due on Nexus before class

Fri 5/30 – Review Take Home Quiz #2

Week 10
Mon 6/2 – Quiz #2 due on Nexus before class
  Movie Analysis due on Nexus before class
  Final Projects

Weds 6/4 – Final Projects

Fri 6/6 – Presentations/Performances @7pm (Exact Schedule TBA)
  Emerson Reserved for the day so bands can practice.
  Load-in 5pm.
  Soundcheck 6pm.
  Presentations/Performances 7pm.
  Jam to follow until?

Optional drafts of Final Projects via e-mail by Noon on Sunday, June 8\textsuperscript{th}
Final Projects due on Nexus by Noon on Thursday, June 12\textsuperscript{th}
**Full Affirmation of the Honor Code**

As a student at Union College, I am part of a community that values intellectual effort, curiosity and discovery. I understand that in order to truly claim my educational and academic achievements, I am obligated to act with academic integrity. Therefore, I affirm that I will carry out my academic endeavors with full academic honesty, and I rely on my fellow students to do the same.

Signature:__________________________

Date:_____________________________