PS 215S: The Politics of Rock & Roll

Dr. James C. Rhoads
Old Main 227

Office Hrs: MWF 12:50-1:50, TR 2:00-3:00 and by appt.

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Fall 2018
Thompson-Clark 314

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Tentative Schedule of Classes:

August 28: Introduction
August 30: Elvis Presley

September 4: Elvis Presley
September 6: Late 50s

September 11: Ricky Nelson
September 13: Beach Boys/Surf Rock

September 18: JFK
September 20: JFK
Course Objectives: This course examines the relationship between one of the most powerful forces of the 20th and 21st centuries – Rock & Roll music and the political realm. The course focuses on the development of Rock & Roll in the post-war environment as well as the role the music played in the political and social tumult of the 1960s. Finally, attention is given to the
interconnections between the music and the sociopolitical culture of the succeeding decades. Some of the artists covered include: Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry, The Beatles, Bob Dylan, The Rolling Stones, Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, Bruce Springsteen, and Michael Jackson.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: The class will be conducted in primarily a lecture/presentation format. When class discussions are held, students will be expected to participate fully in those discussions. Throughout the course students are required to attend each Tuesday class and to keep abreast of their reading assignments. During the course of the term three essays will be required, as well as an approximately 8 page term paper. More detailed instructions on the term paper as the semester progresses.


Grading: 3 Essays @ 40 points each 120
1 Term Paper @ 100 points 100
Attendance and Participation 10
Total 230

Grading Scale: 93-100% A; 90-92% A-; 87-89% B+; 83-86% B;
80-82% B-; 77-79% C+; 73-76% C; 70-72% C-;
67-69% D+; 63-66% D, 60-62% D-; 0-59% F.

Make-up Policy:
"Absence from an announced examination results in a failing grade for the examination, unless suitable arrangements are made for a special examination. A student who seeks such a privilege should petition the instructor in writing PRIOR to the scheduled examination date. If the instructor considers that the petition should be granted, then a note to the effect is added and the petition is presented to the Dean of the College. The examination may be given only if the Dean also approves the petition. (Westminster College Undergraduate Catalog, 2018-19, p.55)
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:
"Central to the purpose and pursuit of any academic community is academic integrity. All members of the Westminster community are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity, in keeping with the philosophy and purposes of the College. Academic dishonesty is a profound violation of this expected code of behavior." (2018-2019, Westminster College Undergraduate Catalog, p. 60.)

The college has adopted a comprehensive policy on academic integrity. You should read this policy in its entirety. You will find it printed in the College Catalog, in the Student Handbook, and on-line. These policies will be enforced in this class. In addition, the college has now adopted Turnitin.com as an electronic way to assess the originality of student writing. This website may be used in the class for one or more of your writing assignments.

DISABILITY POLICY

Students who desire some form of accommodation for a diagnosed learning disability or physical problem must inform their instructors at the beginning of each semester (within two weeks) as to the nature of the disability and type of accommodation requested. If the disability or physical problem is diagnosed during the semester, students should inform their instructors immediately of the problem and accommodations needed. Students with disabilities should also inform the Disabilities Coordinator in the Office of Student Affairs, who is available to assist in evaluating the disability and to facilitate communication between the College and the student in considering special accommodations. The type of accommodation provided will depend on the needs of the student, the circumstances of the student’s classes, and the resources of the College. Because of limited resources, final determination of whether an accommodation can be provided will be at the discretion of the College.