

**Course Title:** History of Rock and Roll

**Course Type:** Humanities credit

**Textbook Used:**  
None

**Students,**

Welcome to History of Rock and Roll! I hope you all enjoyed your break and are ready to get back to work. To do well in this class here is what you need to know:

- Keep a positive attitude.
- Participate in classroom discussions and activities.
- Do all assigned work with maximum effort.
- Come to class prepared and on time.
- Keep absences to a minimum.
- Make up all missed work if absent.
- Be respectful of other students
- Ask for help when needed.

**HISTORY OF ROCK AND ROLL**

History of Rock and Roll is a semester-long elective course that examines the development of rock and roll music from its roots in blues, gospel, country, and rhythm and blues through its evolution into modern rock genres. Students will explore the historical, cultural, social, and political influences that shaped rock music and examine the impact of rock and roll on American society and global culture.

Through guided listening activities, historical research, class discussions, multimedia presentations, and analytical writing, students will develop critical listening skills and an understanding of how music reflects and influences society. Students will analyze influential artists, landmark recordings, technological innovations, and major musical movements from the 1950s to the present.

After successfully completing this course students will be able to:

- Identify major artists, genres, and movements in the history of rock and roll.
- Explain the historical origins and evolution of rock music.
- Analyze how social, political, and cultural events influenced musical development.
- Evaluate the impact of technology on music production and distribution.
- Interpret song lyrics and musical compositions within historical contexts.
- Conduct research using primary and secondary sources.
- Present historical findings through written, oral, and multimedia formats.
- Compare and contrast musical styles across different decades and movements.

Unit 1: Roots of Rock and Roll  
Weeks 1–2

Topics:

- Blues
- Gospel
- Country Music
- Rhythm and Blues
- Early Recording Technology

Unit 2: The Birth of Rock and Roll  
Weeks 3–4

Topics:

- Postwar America
- Elvis Presley
- Chuck Berry
- Little Richard
- Youth Culture

Unit 3: Rock's First Expansion  
Weeks 5–6

Topics:

- Buddy Holly
- Early Rock Bands
- Recording Innovations
- Music Industry Growth

Unit 4: British Invasion  
Weeks 7–8

Topics:

- The Beatles
- The Rolling Stones
- Global Popularity of Rock

Unit 5: Folk Rock and Protest Music  
Weeks 9–10

Topics:

- Bob Dylan
- Civil Rights Movement

- Vietnam Era Music
- Social Commentary

Unit 6: Psychedelic and Experimental Rock  
Weeks 11–12

Topics:

- Jimi Hendrix
- Woodstock
- Counterculture
- Studio Innovation

Unit 7: Hard Rock and Arena Rock  
Weeks 13–14

Topics:

- Led Zeppelin
- Arena Concerts
- Guitar Technology
- Commercialization of Rock

Unit 8: Punk, Alternative, and New Directions  
Weeks 15–16

Topics:

- Punk Rock
- New Wave
- Alternative Rock
- Independent Music

Unit 9: Modern Rock and Legacy  
Weeks 17–18

Topics:

- Contemporary Rock
- Influence on Popular Music
- Digital Distribution
- Future of the Genre

## RATIONALE FOR COURSE

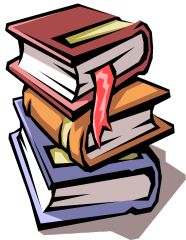
Rock and roll has been one of the most influential cultural movements of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The genre provides a unique lens through which students can examine American history, social change, race relations, technological innovation, media influence, and

youth culture. This course supports interdisciplinary learning by integrating music appreciation, history, literature, media studies, and critical thinking skills.

The course provides students with opportunities to analyze primary and secondary sources, engage in historical inquiry, and evaluate the relationship between music and society. Students will gain a deeper understanding of how artistic expression reflects cultural values and historical events.

### Classroom Procedures/Policies:

- Walk into the classroom quietly, find your seat, and begin your Entry Task. Everyday you will have an Entry Task. Answer daily Entry Tasks using the RACE strategy. Entry Tasks are worth 2 points per day and are due every Friday. **You must make up Entry Tasks if you are absent.** In many cases Entry Tasks are test questions! There will be a binder containing all Entry Tasks by the side board. :)
- You need to ask permission to leave the room for any reason. You will be given one hall ticket that you must keep track of the entire semester. Each unused pass will be worth 5 extra credit points at the end of the semester.
- To be dismissed when the bell rings you must be in your seat. NO "hanging out" by the door allowed.
- You will be tardy if you are not in your seat when the bell rings. If you are less than 3 minutes late, you may use a hall pass to excuse a tardy, but you must have your hall pass with you.
- You must pass all 7 "essential objective" assessments throughout the semester with at least a 70% in order to pass this class. (There will be options available for retaking assessments.)



**Grading Policy:** Grades will be figured from daily assignments, class participation, labs, quizzes, projects, Entry Tasks, and tests.

- o A = 90-100
- o B = 80- 89
- o C = 70-79
- o D = 60-69
- o F = Below 60

### Dear Parents or Guardians,

This information may help describe what your child will experience in his or her History of Rock and Roll class.. I will be reviewing this information with the students to ensure they understand the classroom behaviors I expect. By following these rules and procedures all students can and will be successful in THS!

Parents play a crucial role in education. Please review this information with your child. When you have reviewed the material please sign and date below. This is one of the first assignments and it is worth 10 points.

I look forward to working with you to ensure your child has a positive and rewarding learning experience in History of Rock and Roll. . If your child needs extra help I am available before school, at lunch, and after school. If you have any comments or questions for me I encourage you to contact me. You can reach me by phone at 623-6303 after school from 2:35 to 3:15, or by email anytime at [lindsey.davissmith@lakeland272.org](mailto:lindsey.davissmith@lakeland272.org)

Sincerely,

*Rob Ranney*