

Orientation: Syllabus

Course Information

MUSIC 304 History of American Rock 'n' Roll

Department of Music and Theatre

Music Hall 215

Instruction is fully online and student-directed

The information in this syllabus is subject to change in extenuating circumstances. Changes to the course syllabus will be provided in writing and announced via course-wide announcements.

[Back to top](#)

Instructor Information and Student Hours

Dr. Gregory Oakes

[goakes@iastate.edu \(mailto:goakes@iastate.edu\)](mailto:goakes@iastate.edu)

Office: Simon Estes Music Hall 215

Office Hours: email for appointment

[Back to top](#)

Course Format

This course is a fully-online course, directed at each student's individual discretion. Information comes from readings in the required textbook and course Modules in Canvas. Mastery of concepts will be measured via quizzes, a comprehensive test for each Module, and a final exam. The listed due dates for completion of each Module and its associated quizzes are suggestions, but all work must be completed by the end of finals week for the semester.

[Back to top](#)

Course Goals and Learning Objectives

Upon completing this course, students will be able to do the following:

- Understand the styles and influences from which Rock 'n' Roll music evolved

- Identify music from the various eras of rock music by sound and characteristics
- Identify and name the different related musical styles that have influenced and continue to influence rock music
- Name important performers and bands in the history of Rock 'n' Roll and be able to identify them by listening
- Identify key elements that influenced the evolution of rock music

[Back to top](#)

Course Materials

Required materials

- Computer with a reliable internet connection
- Required text: *Bakersfield to Beale Street: A Regional History of American Rock 'n' Roll from Rockabilly to MTV* (eBook), available for download through the publisher, Kendall Hunt. [Order Online Here](#) https://he.kendallhunt.com/bakersfield_to_beale
- ISU Canvas website

[Back to top](#)

Learning Activities and Assessments

Learning Activities

To successfully complete this course, students will do the following:

- Read assigned chapters
- Watch assigned videos
- Listen actively to assigned audio examples
- Complete Canvas Modules
- Complete quizzes and tests

There are multiple possibilities for the order in which a student can choose to complete the Modules. Each Module has certain prerequisites. Once the required prerequisite Modules are completed, the next available Module(s) unlock automatically. The student may choose to complete any unlocked Module in any order.

The quizzes and exams in each Module serve both as feedback for topics that need extra attention as well as assessment of mastery of those topics. You'll have the opportunity to take each quiz and comprehensive test twice. They are designed such that taking the quiz/test the first time provides a guide for which concepts to study or review more thoroughly. After that first time, review the book

chapter and Module for answers to the questions you missed. Use that information to take the quiz/test the second time. Only your highest score will count toward your grade.

Assessments

Quizzes

Each module includes multiple short quizzes covering material from the assigned reading and included video and listening examples. Each quiz is worth 5 points and consists of questions in the format of multiple-choice, multiple-answer, matching, categorization, fill in the blank, or true/false. There will be questions that require listening, so students must be prepared with access to audio to complete the quizzes. Students will have 5 minutes to complete each quiz with an opportunity to take each quiz twice. The highest score will count toward the final grade. Due dates listed on each assessment are provided as a suggestion for pacing of the course. There is no penalty for taking a quiz after the listed due date as long as it is completed before the end of finals week for the semester.

Comprehensive Tests

At the end of each Module is a comprehensive test covering all of the material from the Module. The comprehensive test may include material not covered in the quizzes. Each comprehensive test is worth 20 points and consists of questions in the format of multiple-choice, multiple-answer, matching, categorization, fill in the blank, or true/false. There will be questions that require listening, so students must be prepared with access to audio to complete the tests. Students will have 20 minutes to complete each test with an opportunity to take each test twice. The highest score will count toward the final grade. Due dates listed on each assessment are provided as a suggestion for pacing of the course. There is no penalty for taking a test after the listed due date as long as it is completed before the end of finals week for the semester.

Final Exam

At the end of this course, you are required to complete a 50-minute online examination. This examination is worth 50 points, and the questions are a combination of multiple-choice and matching formats. Unlike the quizzes and comprehensive exams, you will only be allowed to take the final exam once. Plan for that in your preparation and study.

[Back to top](#)

Grading Policies

Grading Schema

Table 1. Letter grades in this course

Letter Grade	Percentage
---------------------	-------------------

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	93%–100%
A–	90%–92%
B+	87%–89%
B	83%–86%
B–	80%–82%
C+	77%–79%
C	73%–76%
C–	70%–72%
D+	67%–69%
D	63%–66%
D–	60%–62%
F	0%–59%

You can accumulate points by submitting the following quizzes and tests:

Table 2. Grade Distribution

Evaluation area	Total Points

Evaluation area	Total Points
Quizzes (33, 5 points each)	165
Comprehensive Tests (13, 20 points each)	260
Final Exam	50
<i>Total Points Possible</i>	475

Grade Appeal Process

If you become concerned about your instructor's class management, please communicate your concerns with your instructor. Concerns sometimes relate to grading methods and course policies, as examples. If you feel uncomfortable speaking with your instructor, contact the Music Division Associate Chair, Sonja Giles (sgiles@iastate.edu). Before you decide to appeal, check out [ISU's academic appeal process. \(https://catalog.iastate.edu/academics/#academicgrievancesappealstext\)](https://catalog.iastate.edu/academics/#academicgrievancesappealstext)

Appealing Your Final Grade

If you feel that your final grade does not reflect the quality of the work you produced throughout the semester, please first discuss the issue with your instructor. If, after talking with your instructor, you still feel that your grade does not reflect the quality of your work, you can file a grade appeal with the Music Division Associate Chair, Sonja Giles (sgiles@iastate.edu). For a grade appeal, you will need to submit the following materials:

1. A memo explaining why your final grade does not reflect the quality of work you produced
2. All the work you completed during the semester (including major assignments and weekly assignments like discussions and workshops)
3. The course policies with grade breakdown

A panel of instructors will review your materials blindly and assign a grade based on the quality of the work. If the grade the panel assigns is higher than the grade you received, your grade will be changed accordingly. If, however, the grade the panel assigns is lower than the grade you received, your grade will remain the same.

[Back to top](#)

Course Policies

Feedback

All quizzes and exams are graded automatically by Canvas upon the completion of each one. For clarification or discussion of questions arising from these quizzes and exams, please email the instructor.

Missed and late coursework

Although there is no required schedule for this course, any student who has completed no quizzes by the mid-term grade submission will receive a mid-term grade of an F. To avoid that scenario, students must have established successful work in the course prior to the seventh week of the semester.

All coursework for this class must be completed by 5:00pm on the Friday of the last week of classes for the semester. No further submissions will be allowed after that point.

Incomplete grades

Due to the self-directed nature of this course, no incomplete grades will be awarded. Any uncompleted work at the end of the last week of classes will be graded with zero points, and the average grade will be computed based on those figures.

[Back to top](#)

Course Calendar

This course is self-directed, and due dates for quizzes and Module comprehensive tests are given as suggestions to finish the course. The due date for the Final Exam is the end of finals week. Any quizzes, comprehensive tests, or exams not completed by the end of finals week will receive a grade of zero.

The course summary with all due dates appears in the bottom half of the [Homepage](#) (<https://canvas.iastate.edu/courses/106071/assignments/syllabus>)

[Back to top](#)

Recommended and Required ISU Syllabus Statement

View Required and Recommended ISU Syllabus Statements via the Syllabus Statements option on your left-hand Canvas course navigation. Syllabus statements are developed by Iowa State University to communicate a consistent message to all students about strategic policies that impact their experience and make students aware of available campus resources.

