

SYLLABUS & COURSE OUTLINE - ADAM BIGELSEN
Spring 2015 - MUSC 108

Rock Music Theory
Sierra Nevada College

Course Code	MUSC 108 Section 1
Course Title	Rock Music Theory (2 credits)
Term and Year	Spring 2015
Course Reference Number	80154
Instructor	Adam Bigelsen
Phone	530-582-9967
Email	abigelsen@sierranevada.edu
Class Meeting Time	Thursday – 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Location	DH2 303A

Course Description: Students study Rock Music through history, listening exercises, basic music theory, and performance. Students improve their skills in rock instruments and singing as a means to experience and understand rock music first hand. History discussed begins with the Blues and ends with the Rock music of the present. Final projects will include a performance and a music CD produced by the students themselves. Instruments required.

Student Outcomes

Students will understand basic music notation, scales and chords, and rhythmic cadences. They will improve their performance level on their instrument of choice: guitar, drums, bass, or singing. Students will be able to improvise above a basic blues progression. Students will be able to identify and explain the historical eras of Rock music from blues to the present.

Methods of Assessing Student outcomes

Weekly meetings, progress on specific musical studies, performance, consistency and improvement of skills, technical development, research project, final recording and performance.

Instructional strategies

Listening exercises.
Class discussions
Whole group and individual instrumentation.

Attendance

Due to the experiential nature of this class, your attendance is essential. Please note that 30% of your grade can only be credited to when you are in class.

Homework

You will have written homework assigned for most classes. Complete assignments will be given full credit. Homework that is turned in after the due date will be down-graded by 20% for each date it is late.

Class requirements

Students are required to turn in, and present a short research project on an artist(s) of their own choice.

Students must bring their own instruments, and materials, to class every day.

Students will perform on a music cd that the class will record.

Students will perform at a musical concert at the end of the term.

Grading:

Class attendance and participation	200 points
Listening Exercises	200 points
Instrumentation	200 points
Performance	200 points
Research Project	200 points

A = 90-100 %

B = 80-89 %

C = 70-79%

D = 60 - 69%

F = Below 60%

Sanctions for Cheating and/or Plagiarism

The Honor Code

The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect for the rights of others. Each student brings to the SNC community unique skills, talents, values and experiences which, when expressed within the community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the individual. Students share with members of the faculty, administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers as well as themselves. Therefore faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which they are expected to read and understand.

Consequences of Violating the Student Honor Code

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the

current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the Honor Code and the consequences of violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM and FABRICATION and for refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the Honor Code become part of a student's academic record.

1st Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

2nd Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

3rd Offense: Student is expelled.

ADA Accommodations

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 x7534, hconover@sierranevada.edu or go to the OASIS offices on the third floor of Prim Library within the first week of the semester.

The SNC Email System

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college email accounts daily during the school year.

Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC email account.

Course Outline and Assignments

WEEK 1

- Course introduction:
- History: Origins of Rock: Early Blues
- Theory: Musical Alphabet
Reading "TABS"

WEEK 2

- History: Early Blues
- Theory: Rhythm Notation
Power Chords and chord diagrams
Nashville Number System
12 Bar Blues Progression (I-IV-V)

WEEK 3

- History: Early Rock
- Theory: Rhythm Notation (contd.)
Power Chords and chord diagrams (contd.)
Nashville Number System (contd.)
12 Bar Blues Progression (I-IV-V) (contd.)

WEEK 4

- History: Doo-Wop
- Theory: Straight vs. Shuffle
Chord theory (major/minor)
I-vi-IV-V Progression

WEEK 5

- History: Rockabilly
- Theory: Song patterns (ex.) ABACAB
5 to 6 chord rhythm

WEEK 6

- History: Surf Rock
Guitar effects: reverb and tremolo
- Theory: Pentatonic Scale
Instrumental melody lines

WEEK 7

- History: British Invasion
Guitar effects: distortion
- Theory: Riffs

WEEK 8

- History: Classic Rock (Blues Rock)
- Theory: “Chordal” Riffs

WEEK 9

- History: Classic Rock (Hard Rock)
- Theory: Improvising Solos

WEEK 10

- History: Classic Rock (Southern Rock)
- Theory: Improvising Solos (contd.)

WEEK 11

- History: Heavy Metal
- Theory: More guitar effects

WEEK 12

- History: Progressive Rock
- Theory: Research Presentations

WEEK 13

- History: Pop Rock
- Theory: Research Presentations

WEEK 14

- History: Student Picks
- Theory: Research Presentations

WEEK 15

PERFORMANCE

The Mission Statement:

Sierra Nevada College graduates will be educated to be scholars of and contributors to a sustainable world. Sierra Nevada College combines the liberal arts and professional preparedness through an interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes entrepreneurial thinking and environmental, social, economic and educational sustainability.

The Core Themes:

Liberal Arts

Professional Preparedness

Entrepreneurial Thinking

Sustainability