

History of Rock MU247 SPRING 2020

February 17-April 24

COURSE OVERVIEW

Module 1: Roots of Rock February 17-23

■Module 1 sets the stage for how, why, and where rock emerged the way it did. This module specifically delves into the cultural, social, and musical milieus – decades in the making – that came together to make rock and roll happen when it did by the mid-1950s. Blues, country, gospel music, and more all played a part – as did teen culture and other factors of post-WWII America – in rock’s creation and earliest era.

Module 2: The 1950s – The Northern Band Sound & Memphis February 24-March 1

■Module 2 examines two of the five types of early rock, namely the Northern Band sound of Bill Haley and the rockabilly template of Elvis Presley and others at Sun Records in Memphis, Tennessee.

Module 3: The 1950s – Chicago, New Orleans & Doo-Wop March 2-8

■Module 3 details the other three types of early rock: the Chicago sound of Chuck Berry and Bo Diddley, the New Orleans stamp of Little Richard and Fats Domino, and the vocal finesse of the doo-wop groups.

Module 4: The 1960s: American Shores – Surf, Folk, and More March 9-15

■Module 4 takes into account several non-rock genres and sounds – jazz, the Brill Building school of girl group hits, and soul music – that would greatly inform rock expressions of the 1960s, then looks at two concurrent scenes of the early 1960s: surf music (exemplified by Dick Dale and the Beach Boys) and the folk revival (best exemplified early on by Bob Dylan).

Module 5: The British Invasion & Garage Rock March 16-22

■Module 5 explores the full expressive scope of the British Invasion, from the Beatles and the Rolling Stones to the Animals, the Yardbirds, and many other key acts; America’s reaction to the Brit sound – garage rock – is also examined.

Module 6: The Psychedelic Era March 23-29

■Module 6 looks at the mature musical expressions of the 1960s, notably psychedelic music in all its manifestations – from the Grateful Dead to the Doors to Pink Floyd – plus the role of rock festivals.

Module 7: The 1970s March 30-April 5

■Module 7 examines the Me Decade, an era of musical extremes and excess as well as great innovation (the birth of punk, hip-hop and disco, after all).

Module 8: Punk April 16-12

■Module 8 dives deeper into punk, arguably the most influential form of rock since the genre’s birth. Its origins, influences, and diverse displays are all explored.

Module 9: The 1980s – MTV & Indie Regionalism April 13-19

■Module 8 looks at the game changer known as MTV but also takes into account the flip side, i.e., the non-commercial bands and regional scenes (Athens, Minneapolis, etc.) that ultimately gave rise to alternative rock in the 1990s.

Module 10: The 1990s – Grunge & Riot Grrrl April 20-26

■Module 10 focuses on grunge, the most impacting form of rock in the early 1990s, as well as its equally important feminist counterpoint, the Riot Grrrl movement.