

MUSIC 9: ROCK: THE EARLY YEARS
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE
Summer Session I 2025

Rock: the early years is an introduction to the roots of Rock 'n' Roll, and to the music of its most important practitioners from the 1950s through 1974. The course will be taught through period-specific readings and music, with attention to both musical form and style, and to the cultural and historical context in which the music developed. We are going to see and hear the history of Rock through the eyes and ears of the classic Rock critics who elevated the music to its pre-eminent role in reflecting and shaping culture, and we will discuss and debate the influences, styles and values of the music in its era and beyond.

No formal musical training is necessary for class participation.

TIME & PLACE

Time: One video will be posted on **canvas** each Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday; the readings and playlists are posted at the **class website**:

<https://music.arts.uci.edu/abauer/Summer25/>

Place: Canvas and Course website

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Amy Bauer

Email: abauer@uci.edu

Zoom Office hours: By request

For all non-confidential queries, please post questions to Canvas. (See below.)

Please check your UCI email account on a regular basis for important information related to this course.

ASSESSMENT

Weekly Video quizzes	30% total
Weekly essay questions	25% total
Midterm exam	15% total
Final exam	30% total

COURSE MATERIAL

Texts

Music 9 has a pdf reader for this class available at the class website and on canvas:

[https:// music.arts.uci.edu/abauer/Summer25/notes/Music_9_Reader_2025.pdf](https://music.arts.uci.edu/abauer/Summer25/notes/Music_9_Reader_2025.pdf) (linked to the Canvas site).

Listening

Links to individual streaming playlists for each week are available on each page of the class website, and at <https://music.arts.uci.edu/abauer/Summer25/listening.html>

CLASS WEBSITE

URL: <https://music.arts.uci.edu/abauer/Summer25/>

COURSE AT A GLANCE: VIDEOS ON CANVAS

week	Video topic			
1	June 24: Introduction & Precursors of Rock	June 25: Precursors of Rock	June 26: The Early 1950s	June 27: The Mid 1950s
2	July 1: The Late 1950s	July 2: The early 1960s 1	July 3: The early 1960s 2	July 4: The mid 1960s 1
3	July 8: The mid 1960s 1	July 9: The mid 1960s 2	July 10: The mid 1960s 3	July 11: The mid 1960s 4
4	July 15: The mid 1960s 5	July 16: The late 1960s	July 17: The late 1960s	July 18: The late 1960s
5	July 22: The early 1970s	July 23: The early 1970s	July 24: The early 1970s	July 25: Review for exam
Midterm exam: <i>Thursday July 10, online, on zoom, 10am–11:30am</i> Final exam: <i>Wednesday July 30, online, on zoom, 10am–12:30pm</i>				

HOW TO GET HELP

If you have any questions about the class or need help with any of the assignments, you should do the following:

1. Email me for answers or a zoom appointment.
2. Use the discussion boards on Canvas. If you are confused about something, there is a fairly good chance someone else is too. Keeping all questions and answers in one place should build a useful resource for the whole class. Feel free to respond if you know the answer.
3. For questions about your individual performance in this class or for anything confidential that cannot be discussed on Canvas, please email me or talk in person.

Note: please use your UCI email account and include your full first and last name in all email correspondence with me. If you are asking about grades, it is helpful to include your student ID number. I will not answer any emails sent from non-UCI account or lacking your full name.

Scott Stone (Research Librarian for Performing Arts) is available to help you. You can contact him via email (stonesm@uci.edu) and/or visit him during one of his office hours (time and place TBA).

CLASS PROTOCOL

This is a class on popular music from the 1940s through 1974, and some of the assigned reading will not conform to the norms of current discourse. Try to see the issues and music discussed from the vantage point of someone from an earlier era. If something in the class is making you uncomfortable, please come to talk to me.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

All your work for this course must be entirely your own, and must conform to UCI's policies on academic honesty, which are explained at <https://aisc.uci.edu/students/academic-integrity/definitions.php>. You are not allowed to use AI chat software or other persons to answer questions or write your exams, or to use Wikipedia (although it is a great place to find authored and official *sources*). We will be using software that detects AI or plagiarized material, which will result in an automatic fail for the assignment in question and a letter in your

academic file. It may also result in an F for the entire class. Any violation of academic honesty will be penalized to the full extent allowed by UCI policy.

Answers may refer to videos on youtube (please list the URL), as well as course lecture videos and the reader. I will provide a review for the final, and if there is enough interest, I'm happy to do one via zoom as well. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any In addition, the class reader and website are under copyright; you may not distribute them without permission.

SPECIAL NEEDS

If you have a disability that affects your performance in this course and requires special treatment, you must document it through the Disabilities Services Office and have them contact me at the beginning of the quarter to establish the necessary arrangements.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

You are required to do the assigned listening and reading (where applicable) *before* the first lecture on each topic. The assignments are subject to change. Check the class website for the latest update.

ASSESSMENT IN DETAIL

Video Quizzes (30%)

Multiple choice and short answer quizzes will be based on material presented in the videos and on the playlist, and will be posted on **Thursday at noon**, with responses due on **Friday by midnight**.

Weekly Essay Questions (25%)

Weekly essay Questions will open on canvas **Friday at noon**, with replies due the following **Monday by midnight**. Essay questions will be based on the videos, playlists, and on articles in the class reader.

Midterm Exam (15%)

The Midterm Exam will be delivered via Canvas on July 10, 2025 at 10am–11:30am.

Final Exam (30%)

The final Exam will be delivered via Canvas on July 30, 2025 at 10am-12:30pm. The final video will be a review for the exam, but I will also provide further review materials.