



# History of Rock & Roll

**Half-year course, meets everyday / 2.5 Credits / Prerequisites:** None

**Teacher:** Jennifer Moss

**Email:** [jmoss@abschools.org](mailto:jmoss@abschools.org) **Class Website:** [mossmusicnews.weebly.com](http://mossmusicnews.weebly.com)

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the social development and historical significance of Rock & Roll. You will have a chance to be the rock critic as you study the chronological history of rock while listening to and viewing Rock & Roll performances and films. Class assignments are organized around recordings and videos, small group discussions, and in-class activities. The course begins with an overview of ancestors and influences: blues, jazz, country & western, and popular music, and the crossover success of rhythm & blues acts that marked the true birth of rock & roll. We'll also look at the musical and social trends of the 1960's, including the influence of the Beatles and the British Invasion, the Acid Rock explosion, and social upheaval of the late 1960's, ending with the changes in Rock & Roll music during the seventies, eighties, and nineties.

## TOPICS

- The Roots of Rock
  - The Emergence of Rock & Roll
  - The British Invasion
  - The Beatles
  - Transition: The Early 1960's
  - Folk Rock & Protest Songs
  - Acid Rock & Psychedelia
  - Soul & Motown
  - Art & Progressive Rock
  - The Seventies - Heavy Metal
  - The Eighties - Hair Bands, Glam Rock...
  - Punk Movement: British & USA
  - The Nineties – Grunge, Pop...
  - Final Projects/Presentations
- "Who Rocks Your World" Project

## GRADING POLICY & ASSESSMENT

In the History of R&R, students' grades reflect *individual achievement*. Students will not be graded against their classmates' academic and performance abilities, but rather on their own *potential*. Term grades will be comprised of the following criteria:

- 'Quizzams', Individual & Group Projects, Response Papers (75%)
- Participation in class discussions & activities, daily preparation (10%)
- Journal (15%)
- (•) Final project – Factors in as part of your Term 4 grade.

## EXPECTATIONS

- **Respect:** Music is a subjective art, & we may have differing opinions about artists & their music. As a class, we will respect each other's musical likes & dislikes. Respect yourself so you may treat your peers with respect. At times, we will debate topics that have affected music society & audiences - Listen to all points of views.
- **Absences:** If you are absent from class, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to find out what you missed. I will provide class notes for you if you were absent from school. Truancy/skipping class is not tolerated.
- **Plagiarism:** You MAY NOT use someone else's work and claim it is your own. Make sure you carefully quote and cite all sources when writing your response papers. The academic integrity policy at AB is very strict.

## MATERIALS & RESOURCES

- **Text:** History of Rock and Roll, 2nd Ed., Thomas E. Larson. (2007)
- **Video - concert footage, interviews, & documentaries:**
  - The History of Rock 'N' Roll Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. (2004)
  - Vh1 *Behind the Music*, featuring: Elvis, Guns 'n Roses, Stone Temple Pilots, History of Heavy Metal, John Lennon vs. US Government, Live 8, AC/DC Live at Donnington, Vh1's Top 10 Protest songs, & various online clips from music history websites
  - Portions of the following music movies: *The Doors*, *Beatles Anthology*, *Monterey Pop Festival*, *Pink Floyd - Rock Review*, *School of Rock*, & student requests

## ONLINE RESOURCES

- ✚ Ms. Moss' Web site: [mossmusicnews.weebly.com/history-of-rock-n-roll.html](http://mossmusicnews.weebly.com/history-of-rock-n-roll.html)
- ✚ Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum: <http://www.rockhall.com>
- ✚ Rock & Roll Library: <http://www.rocklibrary.com/>

