



**Independent  
Study** | **in Idaho**

**MUSH 201  
History of Rock & Roll**

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The University of Idaho in statewide cooperation with  
Boise State University — Idaho State University — Lewis-Clark State College

# Course Guide

Independent  
Study | in Idaho

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## **MusH 201 History of Rock and Roll**

University of Idaho  
3 Semester-Hour Credits

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2 – MusH 201  
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**Welcome!**

Whether you are a new or returning student, welcome to the Independent Study in Idaho (ISI) program. Below, you will find information pertinent to your course including the course description, course materials, course objectives, as well as information about assignments, exams, and grading. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the ISI office for clarification before beginning your course.

**Policies and Procedures**

Refer to the ISI website at [www.uidaho.edu/isi](http://www.uidaho.edu/isi) and select Students for the most current policies and procedures, including information on setting up accounts, student confidentiality, exams, proctors, transcripts, course exchanges, refunds, academic integrity, library resources, and disability support and other services.

**Course Description**

A study of the history and culture of rock music. UI students: May be used as core credit in J-e-d. May not be counted as a required music history elective for music majors.

*Required: Internet access, Microsoft Word, Computer with audio capabilities  
12 graded assignments, 2 graded projects, 4 proctored exams*

**Course Materials**

**Required Course Materials**

Course content will be provided on the Canvas website. There is no textbook.

**Course Delivery**

All ISI courses are delivered through Canvas, an online management system that hosts the course lessons and assignments and other items that are essential to the course. Upon registration, the student will receive a Registration Confirmation Email with information on how to access ISI courses online.

**Course Introduction**

Rock and roll is one of the greatest cultural legacies of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and its influence on our lives cannot be overstated. It is a kind of music that has developed strong roots not only in the United States but in many other countries as well. It encompasses dozens of different styles and it continues to evolve to the present day. You will learn about rock by reading the chapters in each unit and listening to the examples and recommended listening that accompany each chapter. Approximately every three chapters there will be a lesson with some questions for you to answer taken from the material included in the reading assignments. At the end of each of the four units, you will take an exam that will include both written and listening sections. Finally, you will complete two written assignments that will give you an opportunity to go into some depth.

**Course Objectives**

There are three primary objectives in this course. The first objective is to provide you with an understanding of the chronology of rock music. The second objective is to give you an understanding of

the characteristics that differentiate one style of rock from another. The third objective is to create an understanding and appreciation for the influences that often connect artists and musical styles.

## **Lessons**

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Refer to the **Course Rules** in Canvas for further details on assignment requirements and submission.

## **Projects**

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This course requires you to complete two projects which will give you an opportunity to develop necessary skills to achieve course goals of 1) developing the ability to communicate your knowledge and opinions about music articulately and 2) understanding chronology in rock music, style characteristics, and influences.

## **Exams**

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- You must wait for grades and comments on assignments prior to taking subsequent exams.
- For your instructor's exam guidelines, refer to the **Course Rules** in Canvas.

Refer to *Grading* for specific information on assignment/exam points and percentages.

There are four exams as part of this course. Each exam covers one unit (three lessons) and includes short answer, essay, and listening components. One exam is to be taken at the conclusion of each unit.

## **Grading**

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The final course grade is issued after all lessons and exams have been graded.

Acts of academic dishonesty, including cheating or plagiarism are considered a very serious transgression and may result in a grade of F for the course.

**Course units:** The class is divided into four units that are further subdivided into chapters. Click on the Course Units below or in the menu on the left to view each unit. Find a chapter that appeals to you and look it over. Each chapter includes text and video clips, and most chapters also include further listening or viewing suggestions. To really get the most from this class you need to read all of the text, view every video clip in its entirety, and follow the suggestions for further listening. If you find a topic that really interests you, go the extra mile and watch a film that I recommend to get more depth on the subject.

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Assignment 1	3%
Assignment 2	3%
Assignment 3	3%
Assignment 4	3%

Assignment 5	3%
Assignment 6	3%
Assignment 7	3%
Assignment 8	3%
Assignment 9	3%
Assignment 10	3%
Assignment 11	3%
<u>Assignment 12</u>	<u>3%</u>
Total	36%

<u>Project</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Project 1: film report	10%
<u>Project 1: inductee report</u>	<u>10%</u>
Total	20%

<u>Exam</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Exam 1	11%
Exam 2	11%
Exam 3	11%
<u>Exam 4</u>	<u>11%</u>
Total	44%

### **Contacting Your Instructor**

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Instructor contact information is posted on your Canvas site under Course Rules.

## Lesson 1

### Basics, Rhythm and Blues, the Independent Labels and Elvis Presley

#### **Lesson Objectives**

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The purpose of this lesson is to familiarize you with some basic music terms, to introduce you to some of the styles that preceded rock and roll, to acquaint you with the state of the recording industry around 1950, and to explain the significance of Elvis Presley to the emergence of rock music.

#### **Reading Assignment**

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Read Some Basics, and the chapters on Rhythm and Blues, The Independent Labels, and Elvis Presley in Unit I, The Beginnings. Be sure to listen to all the video clips in the chapters mentioned above and to listen to the additional songs listed under recommended listening.

#### **Important Terms**

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Beat	Meter	Chord
Backbeat	Form	Rhythm and blues
Arpeggio	Note	

#### **Written Assignment**

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Before beginning the first written assignment, refer to the *Course Rules* in Canvas for your instructor's assignment requirements. If emailing assignments to your instructor, please copy the ISI office at [indepst@uidaho.edu](mailto:indepst@uidaho.edu).

After you have read the material listed above and listened to the music examples answer the following questions.

1. Name three of the musical styles that influenced rock.
2. Which beats are typically accented in rock music?
3. What was another term for rhythm and blues?
4. Who were some of the important rhythm and blues artists?
5. What were the major record labels in the 1940s?
6. What independent label was based in New York?
7. What was one of the important developments that occurred in Elvis Presley's career in 1955?
8. What was one of the characteristics that enabled Elvis Presley to bridge the gap between rhythm and blues and white popular music?