

HIST 105 American History, American Music

Saxe/McKinney - Section #13501, Buckman 216, 12-12:50 MWF

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Saxe Office Hours – MW 10-11 or by appointment, Buckman 207

McKinney Office Hours – MW 9-10:30 or by appointment, Buckman 213

Required Texts:

Robert Gordon, *It Came from Memphis*

Warren Zanes, *Dusty Springfield's Dusty in Memphis*

Course Requirements:

**Essays**

Essay #1, due September 21 - 15%

Essay #2, due October 29 - 15%

Essay #3, due December 5 - 35%

The hard copy of all essays should be typed, double-spaced, and have page numbers. Essays should be affixed with either a clip or staple. They should also have the following at the top of the first page: name, a meaningful title, date, and the word count. Ex:

Chobert McSaxe

American Music: The Best Class Ever

October 1, 2012

680 words

Also, an email copy of your essay must be sent to the professor on the due date. The title of the document should be your last name and the number of the essay. Ex: “McSaxe2”

In addition, any use of sources must be cited using Chicago-style footnotes (see [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html) for help or you may ask the instructor). A title page and works cited page are not necessary. At the end of each essay, the Rhodes pledge should be printed and signed.

Failure to follow these guidelines will result in a penalty on the essay's grade.

**Exams**

Final Take Home Exam, pick up December 5 – 15% of final grade

**Class Participation** - 20% of final grade.

Short write-ups of different class events will be a significant component of the class participation grade. There will be four field trips:

September 1 – Field Trip to Rock and Soul Museum

September 29 – Field Trip to Sun Studios

October 6 – Field Trip to Graceland

October 20 – Field Trip to Stax

In addition, students are required to attend two other music related events of their choice and write up their experiences. There will also be several other short writing assignments, both in and out of class, during the semester.

Active participation in class discussion is the other way to achieve a good class participation grade. Class participation also includes good conduct. Failure to participate in class, neglecting to do the reading for the day, sleeping or leaving during class, playing games on your laptop or doing text messaging during class may all have a negative impact on your grade. During class time, all phones must be put out of sight. If you choose to use a laptop or tablet during class, you must sign a pledge that you will only use these devices for approved course work.

#### Course Policies:

Class attendance is mandatory. Students are allowed three absences without penalty. Students are required to find out what they missed in class on the day of their absence. If students miss more than three classes, they are required to meet with the professor to discuss their absences. Failure to do so will result in the lowering of a student's final grade by one third grade point for every absence over three. Please consider this policy when planning for extracurricular activities (sports, mock trial, etc.).

Due dates and times for writing assignments and exams are fixed. Late assignments will receive a failing grade. All assignments must be turned in to the professor, even ones that are after the assignments' deadlines. Failure to complete an assignment will result in a failing grade for the class. If you have questions about plagiarism, please talk to us directly.

The professors support the Rhodes College Honor Code. To demonstrate commitment to the Code, each student must write "pledged" and sign his/her name on every assignment.

#### Course Calendar:

Wednesday, August 22, Friday, August 24

Roots of Memphis Music – the African American Experience

August 27, August 29, August 31

"America's Only Indigenous Art Form" – Jazz and the Idea of America

#### **September 1 – Field Trip to Rock and Soul Museum**

September 4

Labor Day

September 5, September 7

More Fuel to the Fire – Country and Gospel Music

September 10, September 12, September 14

From Beale Street to the South Side – The Great Blues Migration

September 17, September 19, September 21

The Politics of Music – The Folk Revival and the Music of the Civil Rights Movement

**Essay #1 due September 21**

September 24, September 26, September 28

Kind of Blue – Jazz, Hipsters, and the Challenge of American Conformity

**September 29 – Field Trip to Sun Studios**

October 1, October 3, October 5

706 Union Ave., Memphis, TN

**October 6 – Field Trip to Graceland**

October 8, October 10, October 12

The King

October 15

Fall Break

October 17, October 19

Rock as Art, Drugs as Inspiration – the Sixties

**October 20 – Field Trip to Stax**

October 22, 24, 26

Sweet Soul Music – Motown, Stax, Dusty

October 29, October 31, November 2

“Say it Loud” – Black Music, Black Politics

**Essay #2 due October 29**

November 5, 7, 9

Rebirth – Sixties Disenchantment, Partying with Zeppelin, and DIY

November 12, November 14, November 16

Anarchy and Consumption: Glam, Punk, and MTV

November 19

Back in Black – Metal and the Remasculization of America

November 21, 23

Thanksgiving Break

November 26, 28, 30

“America’s Other Only Indigenous Art Form” – Hip-Hop

December 3, 5

Bring it on Home – Where to Now?

**Essay #3 due December 5**