

SU22 AP/HIST 1083 6.0A Mass Media and Popular Culture in the Americas: Music, Movies and Power

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Expanded Course Description (expanded from course calendar description):

History 1083 introduces the study of history at the university level, with attention to research, reading and writing skills. Students will learn about the development of popular culture in the Americas, drawing connections between this development and other kinds of historical change, and they will conduct their own historical research and analysis.

We will focus on the history of popular music after 1850, both performed and recorded, along with related forms of film. We will study the history of the people who made music and other kinds of popular culture and mass media, as well as the people who enjoyed it, criticized it, and profited from it; we will examine the ways that popular culture changed in response to other kinds of historical change; and we will investigate how changes in popular culture contributed to broader historical changes.

Although this course covers all the Americas, it concentrates on Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Jamaica, Mexico, and the United States.

Required Course Text/Readings:

TENTATIVE

Students will read book chapters and articles, mostly written by historians, which will be posted on the course website. Course readings average about 40 pages/week. Students are not required to purchase any materials in order to take this course.

Weighting of Course:

TENTATIVE Grade Breakdown

Participation	20% of final grade
Reading Logs (4 logs at 5% each)	20%
Research paper	
Topic proposal	5%
Historical background exercise	15%
Class presentation	15%
Final paper	25%

Course Learning Objectives:

The course has two goals: learning the basics of historical research, analysis and presentation; and learning some of the most important themes in the history of the Americas.