### UNIT TWO: WRITING IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

#### Issues in American Popular Music

#### Schedule of Assignments and Important Dates

(Subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Work due</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tue Oct 17</td>
<td>Go over Unit 2, Clarity in Writing</td>
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| Thu Oct 19 | “Background and Beginnings” Library, Internet, Sources | “Blues Falling Down Like Rain”  
“I Can See Clearly Now”  
“The Roots of Rock and Roll” |
|            | CLASS MEETS IN MIRAMAR LAB                |                                               |
|            | PHELPS 1526                                |                                               |
| Tue Oct 24 | “Early Rock and the Civil Rights Movement” | “Classic Rockers—the First Generation”  
“Classic Rockers—the Second Generation”  
“American Civil Rights Movement” |
| Thu Oct 26 | “Sex, Drugs, and Rock & Roll”             | “The San Francisco Sound: People in Motion”  
“If anything, blame Woodstock. The Rolling Stones: Altamont, December 6, 1969” |
| Tue Oct 31 | “Generation MTV”                          | “The Eighties: The Revolution Will Be Televised”  
“Where My Eyes Can See” |
| Thu Nov 2  | NO CLASS                                   | Use this day to complete your rough draft     |
| Tue Nov 7  | “Selling Blackness: Hip Hop in American Culture” | “Gangsters—Real and Unreal”  
“Black Owned?”  
“Capitalist Tool” |
|            | PEER REVIEW DAY—you must bring your draft to class! |                                               |
| Thu Nov 9  | Portfolio Requirements                     | Paper due in class or by 5 p.m.              |

NB: Please see the class website (web.mac.com/katiebe) for information on the readings.

### Journal Entries during Unit II:

In this unit, you should complete 3-4 journal entries. You will use your journal entries to help you work out ideas for your paper by writing an entry once per week on a source you may use for your paper. Write a brief summary of the source and then use the rest of the page to record your thoughts about the source, its relevance to your topic, if it has made you think any differently about your topic, etc.

### Paper #2 Assignment:

Your second assignment is to write a paper on some aspect of the history of Popular Music. You can choose a topic that interests you, but remember to keep the focus
narrow: i.e. a song, a group in a very limited timeframe, or a sub-genre of music. The key to your paper will be to analyze your topic and its significance in the history of Popular Music. While your last paper was solely a summary, this paper will require a far deeper look at a subject in order to sufficiently analyze your topic. YOUR ESSAY MUST HAVE A WELL-DEVELOPED POINT! See below for some ideas.

There are several stages involved in writing this essay, each of which will be discussed in further detail in class; but briefly, they are:

1. **Select a topic and form a research question** - You are free to choose your own topic, but, again, be sure to narrow your focus to make a “doable” paper. Trying to do a paper on the significance of Louis Armstrong to jazz music would be a dissertation-length topic and therefore unsuitable. But, you could narrow that subject down to his 1922 return to New Orleans and his related problems with racism.

2. **Compile a bibliography** – You must have at least 4 sources, and no more than 3 of your sources may be from the assigned reading. For this assignment, at least 1 of your sources must be peer-reviewed (unless you clear it with me first). Further, you must use both primary and secondary sources. We will talk more about all of that in class. Once you’ve selected a topic and developed a general sense of the requirements of the assignment, you need to gather information on this topic, using both library and Internet resources.

I suggest the online databases located at [http://www.library.ucsb.edu/databases/](http://www.library.ucsb.edu/databases/) (specifically, RILM and International Index to Music Periodicals) which may be accessed at home by following the instructions for setting up the proxy server. [http://www.library.ucsb.edu/proxy/faq.html](http://www.library.ucsb.edu/proxy/faq.html)

3. **Read and annotate sources** - Work carefully through the sources of information that you’ve identified as important for your article. Select the most significant material from them, including data and direct quotations. Take notes as you read! Use MLA format for your in-text and bibliographic citations. *(This is where your journal entries come in)*

4. **Write a draft of the article**
Based on careful analysis of all your source materials write an article that describes your research question and the current issues in scholarship based upon your research question. You will be evaluated on the depth of your analysis of your topic as well as the integration of your sources into your essay. Your paper should be 4-6 pages double spaced —not including your title page or works cited page. Your paper must be written using MLA format.

5. **Revise the draft**
Incorporating the comments you received from the various readers of your draft, make revisions that strengthen the final article. Bring your information together in a clear,
coherent, and grammatically correct document. Your essay should have a title page and a Works Cited list.

**Evaluation Criteria:**

1. A creative and descriptive title that reflects your topic.
2. An introductory paragraph (or series of paragraphs) that previews your entire essay.
3. Logically ordered paragraphs developed with specific, convincing, and properly cited evidence, based upon your topic and your analysis.
4. A concluding paragraph (or series of paragraphs) summarizing your main points and describing areas for further inquiry.
5. Properly cited works cited page in MLA format. (See A Writers Reference 340-367)
6. Adherence to formal conventions of grammar, diction, spelling, mechanics, and usage.

NB: You will not be graded on the type of music you choose or your opinion about it. The largest portion of your grade will be based upon the depth of your analysis and the clarity and precision with which you write about it.

A superior paper will:
- Show understanding of and familiarity with the topic
- Explain or illustrate key ideas with a good deal of elaboration and specificity
- Show variety in sentence structure and be appropriately written for your audience—in this case your fellow classmates and your instructor
- Be generally free from errors in mechanics, usage, and sentence structure
- Address urgent and non-trivial aspects of the topic

**IDEAS FOR PAPERS:**

**The King vs. the Real King:** A close look at what Paul Friedlander calls the “second generation” of classic rock and rollers shows, particularly by looking at Chuck Berry’s Mann Act conviction and the incredible popularity of Elvis Presley, that success, both financial and artistic, was closely tied to issues of race.

- **Start Reading:** Re-read both “Classic Rockers” chapters from your assigned readings. Also, take a look at what the Mann Act was about. You will also want to look at the bios of Berry and Elvis on the New Grove Dictionary (http://www.grovemusic.com/index.html?authstatuscode=202).
- **Writing:** Make sure that you have a narrow topic, even narrower than what is above, and make sure that you use at least two peer-reviewed sources. Start with a research question or provisional thesis, and work with it through your writing. **It will change.** Next, make sure that you locate sources (we’ll work on methods of doing this); take notes; and write in your journal as a way of making sense about this topic.
- **Before the first Peer Review:** Make sure that you have a complete draft, and definitely make sure that you have citations in your text and a works cited page.
Poets of Negation: Tupac, Biggie, and Gangsta Rap: A deeper look at Nelson George’s chapter “Gangsters—Real and Unreal”, focusing on Tupac and Biggie and their contribution to rap music via their descriptions (in their music) of their “meanest dreams and grossest nightmares”.

- **Start Reading:** Read Chapter 3, “Gangsters—Real and Unreal” in Nelson George’s book *Hip Hop America*. Look up general information about the rise of the crack industry and its effect on society. Check out bios of Tupac and Notorious B.I.G. (This is a time when wikipedia.com may be of help. Be sure to look at the list of references to see if there are any relevant sources.)

- **Writing:** Narrow down the topic to a song or two by one of the artists listed above. Be sure to include primary and secondary sources. Start with a research question or provisional thesis, and work with it through your writing. **Chances are it will change, so be prepared for that.** Next, make sure that you locate sources (we’ll work on methods of doing this); take notes; and write in your journal as a way of making sense about this topic.

- **Before the first Peer Review:** Make sure that you have a complete draft and definitely make sure that you have citations in your text and a works cited page.