

**Music Appreciation I, “Blues to Rock” Syllabus
2019-2020**

Mr. John LaMendola

lamendolaj@brookfieldps.org 203-775-7725 ext. 4202

Course Objectives:

The student will be able to:

- A. Listen critically to popular music.
- B. Express orally and in writing his critical knowledge and opinions of music.
- C. Distinguish between music from different stylistic periods as popular music styles evolved in the Rock music era.
- D. Identify through listening the works of certain significant performers.

I. Course Content

A. Introduction: defining Rock N' Roll. The elements of music and listening skills.

B. History of Rock N' Roll

- 1. The roots of rock: The Birth of the Blues: Slavery in America
Post WWII urbanization of America. The state of popular music in the late 1940's: Jazz, Country music, folk music.
- 2. The 1950's: The rise of the youth culture. Racial tensions.
The emergence of Rock N' Roll. Elvis, and the mass marketing of Rock N' Roll.
- 3. The 1960's: Hippie Culture, Vietnam and Civil Rights, Surf, The British Invasion, Soul, Rhythm and Blues and the Birth of Heavy Metal.
- 4. The 1970's: The Baby Boom generation grows up. Rock N' Roll style begins to diversify: Folk music, Jazz-Rock Fusion, Heavy Metal, Techno, Punk, Funk, Disco, Reggae and the rise of electronic synthesis.
- 5. The 1980's, 1990's, and present: Effects of cable TV, Compact Discs and digital synthesis. The rise of MTV and the fall of music radio. The new generation and hard-core: Punk, Metal, Industrial and Grunge. Digital synthesis and "second-order" music: rap, hip-hop, house, techno. Changes in the music industry and implications for the future.

II. Student Evaluation

- A. Tests (written and listening)
- B. Homework- Student journal
- C. Effort/Participation
- D. Attendance
- E. Final Exam

III. Classroom Policies

- A. Students will not be late for class
- B. Students will not cut class
- C. All missed work (or quizzes) due to an excused absence must be made up within 5 school days

IV. Quarter and Final Grades

- A. Homework, Effort/Participation, and Attendance
- B. Tests and Journals
- C. Mid Term/Final Exam

V. Student Work

- A. All work handed in must be neat. Sloppy work will not be accepted.
- B. All work will be handed back within 3 school days.
- C. The teacher will be available for extra help and makeup work by appointment only.