

High School Syllabus

Department: Music

Course #: 90981W

Course Title: Popular Music 1 (The 1950's)

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE: Students will explore the origins and defining characteristics of non-classical music of the Twentieth Century in America (focusing on 1950's). Students will learn about the relationships popular music has shared over the past century. Students will utilize current music technology, analyze, and write about the topics discussed. Students will be required to become familiar with, and use technology in this class on a regular basis. Topics covered will include the following: the blues, country, and gospel music.

REQUIRED TOPICS OF STUDY	SUGGESTED INSTRUCTIONAL TIME	STANDARDS/ ELIGIBLE CONTENT
American Popular Music Before R&R	Four weeks	(9.2.12, 9.3.12, 9.4.12) : European influences from colonial days through the early 19th century, Minstrel shows, The Middle 19th Century and the Civil War Era, Tin Pan Alley and Musical Theater, The Beginnings of Rock and Roll <u>Artists:</u> Stephen Foster, Al Jolson
The Blues Roots of Rock Music	Four weeks	9.2.12, 9.3.12, 9.4.12 : Musical Roots of the Blues, Country blues, 12-bar blues form, Urban blues, Chicago blues, Classic blues, Rhythm & Blues, Blues- and R&B-based Rock of the 1950's <u>Artists:</u> Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, Little Richard, Chuck Berry
The Country Roots of Rock Music	Four weeks	9.2.12, 9.3.12, 9.4.12 : Country Styles that have influenced Rock Music, The Elements of Country Music, Blues and R&B played by Country Musicians, Rockabilly, Rockabilly-influenced Rock <u>Artists:</u> Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis, Roy Orbison, Eddie Cochran, Gene Vincent
The Gospel Roots of Rock Music	Four weeks	9.2.12, 9.3.12, 9.4.12 : Roots of Gospel, Gospel vocal techniques, Gospel quartets, Doo-wop <u>Artists:</u> Thomas A. Dorsey, Mahalia Jackson, Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Ben E. King, Frankie Lymon

RESOURCES: iMac computer lab, Popular Music Teacher Website (<http://www.mister-smale.com>), Popular Music Teacher Textbook (also available online)

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