

Moravian College

WRIT 100 G – From the Hip: The Rare, Obscure, and Eccentric Side of Rock and Roll

**Dr. Joel Nathan Rosen, Assistant Professor of Sociology
PPHAC 317**

Phone: 610/625-7814

Email: jrosen@moravian.edu

Office Hours: T 4-5 & W 1-4 or by appointment

Required Text:

- Hacker, Diana. *The Bedford Handbook for Writers*, 7th Edition. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 2002.
- Szatmary David P. *Rockin' in Time: A Social History of Rock-and-Roll*, 5th Edition. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2004.
- Supplemental readings as necessary (also see BlackBoard [Bb])

Materials:

- 8 ½" X 11 Spiral Notebook (or detachable bound book)
- Three-Ring Binder

Course Description:

This course will take advantage of arcane and at times controversial moments and individuals who have contributed to a musical genre that traces back to the early 1950's. Using these contributors as vehicles, we will seek to employ more effective and even affective means for written expression that offers students a variety of opportunities to explore the nuanced and unconventional nature of an art form in a seemingly endless state of reinvention.

Course Objectives and Purpose:

- To trace the rise of rock and roll music as an extension of post-WWII youth culture
- To explore the vast realm of genre *characters* relative to their place among the pantheon of artists based on the broadly-conceived notions of eccentric and obscure
- To deconstruct the means with which an audio medium explains culture (again broadly-conceived)

- To combine all of the above in order to create better strategies for writing based on a variety of styles, audiences, techniques as befitting a college-level writer

Course Requirements:

Students will be required to keep a writer's almanac (minimum of five entries per week), write a research paper (topic to be negotiated) with an annotated bibliography, write several essays of varying length, submit a final portfolio, and perform other tasks as befitting an introductory college writing course. Fair warning will precede any and all due dates.

Using a traditional grading scale, the breakdown of grades is as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----|
| • Writer's Almanac (to be checked periodically) | 20% |
| • Portfolio | 20% |
| • Research Paper (with Annotated Bibliography) | 20% |
| • Essays Combined | 20% |
| • Participation and Other Misc. Tasks | 20% |

As I typically employ letter grades on written assignments, I offer the below list of how each letter translates numerically:

- A+=100/A= 96/A-=92
- B+=89/B=86/B-=82
- C+=79/C=76/C-=72
- D+=69/D=66/D-=62
- F=59-50 [actual score depends on the severity of the error(s)/student will be notified]
- Failure to turn in work translates into a *ZERO*

Classroom Decorum and Expectations:

Attendance – Class attendance is mandatory and vitally important to your success. Failure to attend on a regular basis not only puts your grade in jeopardy but may also be met with a lowered mark for participation.

- Please Note – there are no excused absences. If you have a legitimate emergency, it is your responsibility to bring it to the attention of your instructor at your earliest convenience.

Tardiness – Tardiness to class is not only detrimental to the learning process but quite disruptive and unfair to those who make it to class on time regularly. Recurring tardiness shows a lack of respect for the classroom, the instructor, and one's fellow students and will not be tolerated. Therefore, once the door has been shut, you will not be permitted to enter.

Deadlines – Assignment deadlines are exactly that. Students are expected to comply with deadlines in accordance with all rules, guidelines, and expectations of each assignment proffered. Failure to do so will result in a tendering of no-grade for work not done to expectation or submitted on time. The policy for late papers is as follows:

- On minor assignments, you will be allowed to turn in one late assignment as long as it is within twenty-four hours for a ten point deduction. After your one exception, you will no longer enjoy this luxury
- Do not expect me to have to chase you down in order to turn in assignments!

Participation – Classroom discussions are a big part of the learning process. Your participation is not requested—it is required. Failure to do so is both in bad taste and could conceivably be detrimental to your ability to learn effectively.

Disruptions – Disruptive behavior, including talking, unengaged behavior, i.e. reading a book, magazine, or newspaper, sleeping, chronic tardiness alongside loud entrances, and any other unfortunate breach will not be tolerated. Learning is an active process, and failure to actively engage not only threatens the individual's ability to learn but also affects those around him or her.

Academic Honesty – You are all responsible for knowing and adhering to the code of academic honesty here at Moravian College. For those of you unfamiliar with this code, it can be found on pages fifty-two through fifty-seven in your student handbook.

Please note: It is your responsibility to see to it that these expectations and guidelines are met satisfactorily and consistently. I take the classroom quite seriously, and I expect all of you to do the same as well.

Submission Expectations:

Out of class work must include:

- a title page with a suitable title, your name, the course, section, and my name all spelled correctly
- 12 font (in black) with default margins and spacing set at 1½ to 2
- page numbers at the bottom center starting with page 2
- a *References* section (if necessary) at the end of the work done in the most recent MLA form (for every unedited internet cite you must have at least two published sources)¹
- with few exceptions, single & two-digit numbers (zero *through* ninety-nine) are to be spelled out; three digits are to be written numerically
- be wary of over use of abbreviations and/or contractions

¹ Work not properly cited will not be graded. And *Wikipedia* will under no circumstances be considered a legitimate source!

- a staple in the upper left hand corner (no frilly covers)
- in-class work must be done in blue or black ink

*Without music to decorate it, time
is just a bunch of boring production
deadlines or dates by which bills
must be paid.*

—Frank Zappa

Schedule of Topics (STC):

LP - Before the Rock & Roll Revolution

Tracks: Getting Started (course expectations and guidelines documentary film);
Establishing a Topic; The Paragraph; Narrative Writing

LP - The Fifties

Tracks: The Thesis Statement; Explanatory Writing

LP - The Sixties (British)

Tracks: Critical Reading & The Persuasive Essay

LP - The Sixties (America)

Tracks: The Research Process; Reeves Library

LP - The Seventies

Tracks: The Poetry within Words; Writing for Readers & Listeners; The Letter

LP - The Punks

Tracks: Tweaking Voice & Style; Writing for Audio & Rhythm

LP - Looking up at Hip-Hop

Tracks: Putting It All Together

Miscellaneous Tasks:

-multiple drafts, peer editing, oral presentation, group presentation, varying audiences

****Check Black Board (Bb) Site Daily****