Welcome to MUS 100: Rock and Roll Appreciation

To be successful in this course, the computer that you plan to use must be equipped with a sound card and you have an active audio player that will play the online files. Please test this as soon as you gain access to D2L.

The first step to success in this course is to take a brief tour of all of the online content. Further, please read the “Technology Support and Requirements” section of the CDE Online Orientation document.

Course Overview:
This online course is designed to give the student a general knowledge of the elements of popular music and a historical perspective of American popular music from 1900 to 2000. You are encouraged to explore the course’s website as it contains all of the information that you will need to succeed—including access to the eText. In addition to the prose content on the website, there are many sound files that you will use to enhance your learning. For each unit of information, the website contains a Powerpoint presentation with video links to performance, a PDF of the Powerpoint with space for taking additional notes, and separate sound files (without video) for easy studying without long download times.

This class is held via Desire2Learn, which means there will be no classroom times and no scheduled office hours. I am available to answer any questions you might have about the course, please read the syllabus carefully prior to asking me questions, usually the answers are in the syllabus (it is easiest to contact me via the email address listed at the top of this page). Also, be aware that in order to access the course through Desire2Learn you need an active username and password to the system.

Required Textbook:

MUS 100 Music Appreciation: Rock and Roll, will be utilizing the First-Day Access process for part or all of your course’s required materials. This will involve the use of an e-Text, instead of using a traditional, printed textbook with the course.

There are a number of benefits to using an e-Text:

- e-Texts are cheaper than textbooks, often significantly so.
- Obviously, there are no big, heavy textbooks to lug around.
- You get instant access to the e-Text on—or in many cases, before—the first day of class.
- You can access your e-Text on any PC or Mac, and/or on most Android- and iOS-based mobile devices.
- e-Texts can be downloaded for offline access, so you literally can take them everywhere.
- You can search through the e-Text to quickly find information, including any notes or highlights you have made.
- You can share your notes with your peers; your instructors can even share notes with you.
- e-Texts can have interactive content, like videos, self-assessment quizzes, flashcards and other study tools, etc.
- e-Texts are more accessible than printed texts; you can adjust font sizes, have content read back to you, etc.
- e-Texts are more environmentally friendly, as they require no paper to produce, are not shipped to stores, etc.
- e-Texts can be updated by the publishers to add additional content, revised existing content, fix problems, etc.
That said, there are some disadvantages to using an e-Text:

- Obviously, e-Texts are not physical, so you lose the tactile feel of a textbook; however, most allow you to print off a set number of pages for easier reference.
- e-Texts require some sort of computer or device to access, and typically do not work on dedicated e-readers.
- Depending on the device, reading content on a screen may cause more eyestrain than reading a textbook.
- e-Texts are typically only available for a defined duration (e.g. 180 or 365 days), though some allow perpetual access. This varies depending on the publisher.
- e-Texts cannot be sold back like used books.

Another aspect of this process is that you will be directly billed for the course’s materials. In other words, you will see the cost for the materials applied to your regular university bill, along with your tuition and fees.

To initially access your e-Text, you must log into your course via Desire2Learn. After the first time you access your e-Text, you can continue to access it via your D2L course, or directly via the VitalSource’s website or app.

**IMPORTANT:** Most e-Texts and some e-Materials provide an opt-out option for students, who would like to obtain the text or materials via other means. A common case for this is purchasing a printed text instead of an e-Text. If a student would like to opt-out of the e-Materials/e-Text, the student should:

1. Contact the instructor, to make sure the opt-out is available.
2. Contact the USD Barnes and Noble College bookstore to request the opt out.
3. Purchase the equivalent material either directly from the USD Bookstore or another source.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact Dr. David Moskowitz at Dave.Moskowitz@usd.edu.

Have a great semester!

Dr. David Moskowitz