

**Department of Literature, Journalism, Writing,
and Languages**

**Lit 4090: Rock and Roll and American Culture
3 Units**

Spring 2021 | J Term

January 11- February 11

Meeting times: Mon, Tues, Wed, and Thur from 1:00-3:10	Instructor: Karl Martin, PhD
Meeting location: Zoom	Email: karlmartin@pointloma.edu
Zoom Office Hours: By appointment Mon-Thur mornings	Final Exam: Thursday, Feb. 11

PLNU Mission

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

It is expected that all students will abide by the health and safety standards set by the university. Here is a link to the most current Health and Safety Guidelines.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The official description of Lit 4090 is as follows: "An intensive study of a selected problem by an individual or group under the direction of a member of the faculty." The designation is used for courses that are being offered for the first time and may or may not be offered again. The designation seemed appropriate for the offering of this experimental course on the relationship between rock music and American culture. A more precise description of this course is: "An intensive listening course designed to allow students to explore the development of rock music in the context of American culture in the second half of the 20th century."

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the Conclusion of the Course Students will be able to:

- Closely listen to and critically analyze rock music.
- Recall, identify, and use fundamental concepts of musical study to listen to and discuss rock music such as
 - Standard musical terminology
 - Modes/genres of rock music
 - Elements of rock music genres
 - Rock musical periods (dates, performers, characteristics, and important developments)
 - Contemporary critical approaches to rock music
 - Extra-musical research related to rock music
- Analyze the social, cultural, ethnic, gendered, and/or historical contexts of the works and their creators and connect the music with their own lives.
- Create detailed and informed analysis of rock music that examine several of the fundamental concepts of popular culture study.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

No texts are required for the course; however, you must have access to a streaming music service that will allow you to listen to the assigned music. Attentive listening is challenging, so please prepare to set aside sufficient time to carefully listen to the music without distractions.

COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 3 unit class delivered over 5 weeks. Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirement can be provided upon request. (Based on 37.5 hours of student engagement per credit hour.)

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Listening and Viewing: Dates for the listening assignments will be indicated on the module schedule in Canvas. Listen daily if possible and complete all listening prior to the class session when the songs will be discussed. You will also respond to the music in discussion groups established in Canvas and in Zoom sessions. At times I will provide a prompt for these discussions, but you will also have the opportunity to discuss aspects of the music of your own choosing.

Discussion: The success of the course will be directly related to the quality of the daily discussions. Each of you should feel comfortable contributing to discussions. And each of you should bring any questions you have about the listening to our attention during the course of our discussions.

Listening Journals: Rather than listening quizzes, I will ask each of you to maintain a listening journal. Each week, I will ask you to submit your journal to Canvas so that I can review it. To receive full credit for the assignment, the journal must be at least 5,000 words long. To receive 90% of the points, the journal must be at least 4,500 words in length. To receive 80% of the points, the journal must be at least 4,000 words in length. To receive 70% of the points, the journal must be at least 3,500 words in length. To receive 60% of the points, the journal must be at least 3,000 words in length.

Writing: Each student will complete a final exam and a brief reflective essay. Students cannot pass the course without completing each of these major assignments. Late essays will receive a ten percent daily deduction and will not be accepted when the value would be zero.

Viewing Project: In groups of two or three, students will report on a documentary film from the provided list and present their work to the class. Class presentations must be between seven and ten minutes in length. The presentations will be recorded and placed on Canvas. Individual and group grades will be given for the project. The AAC&U Oral Communications rubric will be used to assess the presentation which will be worth 100 points. The group members will receive one grade for the oral presentation. In addition, each student must complete an essay of 500-750 words related to the presentation. The essay can be primarily informative in nature and should focus on connecting the documentary with course themes. More details about this assignment will be distributed via Canvas.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Listening Journals	100 Points
Discussion Board Posts	200 Points
Final Exam	300 Points
Reflective Essay	100 Points
Group Presentation/Paper	200 Points
Participation in Zoom Sessions.	100 Points

Standard Grade Scale Based on Percentages				
A	B	C	D	F
A 93-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F Less than 59
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

While all students are expected to meet the minimum standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic adjustments, modifications or auxiliary aids/services. At Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU), these students are requested to register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center. (DRC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). The DRC's policies and procedures for assisting such students in the development of an appropriate academic adjustment plan (AP) allows PLNU to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Section 504 (a) prohibits discrimination against students with special needs and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities. After the student files the required documentation, the DRC, in conjunction with the student, will develop an AP to meet that student's specific learning needs. The DRC will thereafter email the student's AP to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester. The AP must be implemented in all such courses.

If students do not wish to avail themselves of some or all of the elements of their AP in a particular course, it is the responsibility of those students to notify their professor in that course. PLNU highly recommends that DRC students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester about the applicability of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not desire to take advantage of some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all **synchronous** class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions (virtual or face-to-face), the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. In some courses, a portion of the credit hour content will be delivered **asynchronously** and attendance will be determined by submitting the assignments by the posted due dates. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog. If absences exceed these limits but are due to university excused health issues, an exception will be granted.

Asynchronous Attendance/Participation Definition

A day of attendance in asynchronous content is determined as contributing a substantive note, assignment, discussion, or submission by the posted due date. Failure to meet these standards will result in an absence for that day. Instructors will determine how many asynchronous attendance days are required each week.

SPIRITUAL CARE

Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith.

If students have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact the [Office of Spiritual Development](#)

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Since most courses will have online components, in order to be successful in the online environment, you'll need to meet the minimum technology and system requirements; please refer to the *Technology and System Requirements* information. Additionally, students are required to have headphone speakers compatible with their computer available to use. If a student is in need of technological resources please contact student-tech-request@pointloma.edu.

Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work.