

Women and Rock 'n' Roll

Professor Sarah Dougher

Portland State University, Fall 2009

Contact: email sarahdougher@gmail.com, or 503-715-6731

Conference by appointment

Class takes place Tuesdays from 5:30-9pm in Shattuck 242

Course Objectives

Students will learn about the role of women in the history of rock-n-roll, as well as the relationship between women's involvement in rock and social change. Students will become familiar with the contributions of specific artists to a variety of genres, and will develop a critical language for evaluating these contributions. In order to develop skills in observation and description, students will visit two live shows during the course of the quarter, and write reviews of them. In order to develop skills in research and writing, students will turn in a term paper near the end of the quarter.

General Course Requirements

1. Come to class and actively participate. If you have to miss class for some reason, please gather the information you missed from a classmate.
2. One question per class—**Bring a question each class day. Type this question and print it out. Put your name and the date at the top!** As part of your participation evaluation, you are required to bring a

question on the day of class (9 questions total). The question can ask for clarification, or reflect on issues you found interesting about the reading. You may include information from your outside reading and experiences as well. These questions should not have yes/no answers, nor should they be factual questions that are easily answered with basic research.

3. Attend 2 rock shows outside of class time, log reviews—First one is due by October 27, the second one is due by November 24th. Please plan to attend 2 local shows. We will discuss the opportunities to go to shows in class, and you are encouraged to share information with your colleagues about local shows. Within three days of your attendance, please email me a 2-3 page review of the show, keeping in mind issues from our reading and discussions.

4. Final Exam. Your final will be a combination of short answer, factual questions, and longer form essay questions.

Grade Breakdown

Class attendance and participation 20%, weekly questions 30%, two show reviews 30%, final 20%

Plagiarism policy: Plagiarism is the act of claiming someone else's work as one's own, and may show up in the following forms: a. Verbatim copying without proper acknowledgment; b. Paraphrasing without proper acknowledgment; c. Theft of ideas without proper acknowledgment. One key to understanding plagiarism is that the student's intentions are not necessarily the problem. A student can be guilty of plagiarism without necessarily intending to "cheat" on an assignment. Any student found plagiarizing risks losing credit.

Weekly Reading and Assignments

Week 1 September 29 Organization, explanation and introduction, book buying

Week 2 October 6 Roots, Race and the Blues

(packet) Angela Y. Davis, from Blues Legacies and Black Feminism, introduction, chapter one ("I Used to be your Sweet Mama: Ideology, Sexuality and Domesticity"), New York: Random House, 1998.

Buzzy Jackson,. A Bad Woman Feeling Good: Blues and the Women who Sing Them, introduction, chs. 1-4

Week 3 October 13 Theories and Beginnings

(packet) Susan McClary "Same as it Ever Was: Youth Culture and Music" from Microphone Fiends: Youth Music & Youth Culture, ed. Andrew Ross and Tricia Rose, Routedledge 1994.

Gayle F. Wald, Shout, Sister, Shout: The Untold Story of Rock-and-Roll Trailblazer Sister Rosetta Tharpe, preface and pp. 1-155.

Week 4 October 20 Sister Rosetta, Rockabilly

Gayle F. Wald, Shout, Sister, Shout: The Untold Story of Rock-and-Roll Trailblazer Sister Rosetta Tharpe, pp. 156-219.

(packet) Mary Bufwack and Robert Oermann, Finding Her Voice: the Illustrated History of Women in Country Music.. New York: Henry Holt and Co. 1993, Chapter 9, "Women of Rockabilly, Let's Have a Party"

Film in class: "The Women of Rockabilly: Welcome to the Club"

Week 5 October 27 Rock Culture/Blues

Lisa Rhodes, Electric Ladyland: Women and Rock Culture, chapters 1, 2 and 3.

Buzzy Jackson, A Bad Woman Feeling Good: Blues and the Women who Sing Them, introduction, chapters 4,5,6.

FIRST SHOW REVIEW DUE BY TODAY (CAN BE TURNED IN BEFORE)

Week 6 November 3 Girl groups, hippies, singer-songwriters, and women in rock

Lisa Rhodes, Electric Ladyland: Women and Rock Culture, chapters 4, 5 and 6.

(packet) Gerri Hershey, "The Butterflies and Banshees of L-O-V-E: When the Girls Ruled the Airwaves" Liner notes from *One Kiss Can Lead to Another: Girl Group Sounds, Lost and Found*, Rhino Records, 2003.

Week 7 November 10 Punk, Post Punk, Women's Music and the Mainstream

(packet) Liner notes for "Papa, Don't Lay that Shit On Me" Chicago Women's Liberation Rock Band, New Haven Women's Rock Band, Le Tigre, Rounder 2005.

Film in Class: "The Changer: A Record of the Times," footage from Woodstock

Week 8 November 17 Neo-Folk and Synthesizers, early Hip-Hop forms

(packet) bell hooks, "Madonna: Plantation Mistress or Soul Sister?" (1992)

(packet) Mimi Valdés, "Beyond Sucker MCs: Hip Hop Women" from Trouble Girls: the Rolling Stone Book of Women in Rock, ed. by Barbara O'Dair. NY: Random House, 1997.

Week 9 November 24 Riot Grrl, Pop and Contemporary Rock

(packet) Susan Faludi, "Introduction: Blame it on Feminism" from Backlash: the Undeclared War Against American Women, Anchor/Doubleday, 1991.

(packet) Emily White, "Revolution Girl Style Now" (1992) from Rock She Wrote, eds. McDonald and Powers, 1995.

YOUR SECOND LIVE SHOW REVIEW IS DUE BY TODAY, CAN BE TURNED IN EARLIER.

Week 10 December 1

Wrap up and final study

Required books:

Jackson, Buzzy, A Bad Woman Feeling Good: Blues and the Women who Sing Them. NY: WW Norton and Co., 2005

Rhodes, Lisa L., Electric Ladyland: Women in Rock Culture. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005.

Wald, Gayle F., Shout, Sister, Shout: The Untold Story of Rock-and-Roll Trailblazer Sister Rosetta Tharpe Boston: Beacon Press, 2007

These books are available at In Other Words, located at 8 NE Killingsworth, or at the Women's Resource Center, during the first week of classes. All other reading material is available in a packet for you to purchase at Clean Copy, 1704 SW Broadway.

From In Other Words:

The Women's Resource Center is located in the basement of the Montgomery Building. Our hours for the first week of classes are: Mon 9/28: 9:30-3, Tue 9/29: 10-7, Wed 9/30: 10-6:30, Thur 10/1: 10-7, and Fri 10/2: 10:30-3.

Return Policy: If you drop the class you may return your textbooks to our bookstore, for full credit, within 10 days of purchase.

They must be in the same condition they were purchased in, and you must present proof of having dropped the class (such as a printout of the new class schedule).

Buy Back Policy: We will buy your used textbooks back at 20–25 % of the retail price if we are sure the book is going to be used again. Only a manager can buy back your books, so call the store ahead of time to make sure one will be there. Manager hours at In Other Words are generally 10 to 6 Monday to Friday. A list of buybacks will be posted on our website 5 weeks before the start of the next term.

Directions to IOW & Hours:

By Car from PSU: Take I-5 North to exit 303. Follow signs for Killingsworth and turn Right onto Killingsworth. Drive 10 blocks to Williams Ave. We are on the right, just after the light.

By Bus from PSU: Board the 6 MLK at SW Columbia and SW Park. Get off at NE MLK and Killingsworth. Walk 3 blocks West to Williams. We are located on the left, just before the light.

M-F 10-9, Sat 12-6, Sun Closed