

## Exploring Popular Music

**Course Title:** Exploring Popular Music      **Credits:** 1

**Department:** Unified Arts - Music

**Teacher Contact Information:** Rebecca Elgood, [relgoshs@buusd.org](mailto:relgoshs@buusd.org) 476-4811 ext. 2015

**Department Chair Contact Information:** Rebecca Elgood, see contact info above  
Brendan Eaton, 802-476-4811 ext. 1230, [breatshs@buusd.org](mailto:breatshs@buusd.org);

### Course Description:

Exploring Popular Music is a semester long class designed to give you an overview of the history of American popular music. The class will cover many different styles and genres of music. We will discuss what popular music is and how it relates to society and culture.

### Topics to be covered may include:

What is the Music Industry and what is its Role in What We Listen to?

The Evolution of Rap and Hip Hop

Rock & Roll

Music through the Decades: 1990's, 1980's, 1970's, 1960's

The Blues

Jazz

Musical Theater

### Class Materials

- Generally the material for this class will be provided in digital format. Please let Ms. Elgood know if you prefer to have hardcopies of work or resources.
- Students should come to class prepared with something to write with and their chromebooks.
- **A positive attitude and a willingness to participate is always appreciated.**

### General Expectations:

- Work outside of the classroom is expected. Expect to have about an hour of work each day.
- Google classroom and email will be our primary forms of communication. Be sure to check both of these regularly.
- [School-wide Student Expectations](#)
- **Cell phone use:** Cell phones should be out of sight during in-person class times.
- **Absences:** Students missing work due to an absence are responsible for following up with any assignments or information they missed. All class materials and resources will be posted on our Google Classroom. Students should make a habit of checking this daily.

### Safety protocols (these may change over the course of the year):

- Covid-19 Handbook [LINK](#)
- Specifically for in-classroom:
  - Wear your mask over your nose and mouth at all times
  - Do not move chairs. They are placed to adhere to safe distancing guidelines.
  - Wipe down your desk/chair/materials before leaving
  - No food in the classroom. Water bottles are ok.

**Accessing support:**

The best way to get support is attending class on your in-person days!

If you are fully remote or you need support outside of class, email Ms. Elgood at [relgoshs@buusd.org](mailto:relgoshs@buusd.org). Expect a reply between 7:30-3:30 within 24 hours from when your email is received.

Virtual Office Hours are Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30

**Assessed Standards:**

**History:**        **Argumentation**  
                     **Comparison**

**Music:**        **Reflection and Critique**  
                     **Music Content**

Each standard will be assessed multiple times throughout the course.

To be proficient in a standard you must complete all of the assessments at a proficient level.

To be proficient in the course you must demonstrate proficiency in both of the Music standards and at least one of the History standards.

Proficiency will be assessed through a variety of assessments which may include formal and informal quizzes, tests, projects, presentations, and written expression. Students will be clearly informed and guided in class on how to complete each part of the assignments and when an assignment will be formally assessed.

**Reassessment & Office Hours**

Students are expected to keep up with their work in a timely manner. Generally, students have 2-weeks to revise or reassess an assignment.

Every 3-weeks, students will receive a progress grade (Unsatisfactory, Below, Meeting, or Above). This progress grade is determined based on class work completion and assessments.

Students that are not meeting proficiency will be able to meet with Ms. Elgood during Virtual Office hours to make a plan for reaching proficiency.

**A Note About Explicit Language and R-rated content**

In the process of exploring and listening to a wide variety of music in this class, we will occasionally deal with music that has explicit lyrics or content. As a general rule, if I can teach the same concepts or discuss an artist WITHOUT using songs with explicit language, I will do so. This is not always possible. This does not by any means condone the use of explicit language in this class. Students who are uncomfortable with this should let me know in advance so that I can prepare in the event that we will be discussing a song that includes explicit lyrics or content.

Likewise, some of the content we will watch or listen to is R-rated (typically due to explicit language.) Please indicate in the [Syllabus Self-Check](#) assignment that you and your parents understand and give permission to engage with this content for educational purposes. Ms. Elgood will aim to make students aware of the nature of any explicit content ahead of time so that students can prepare or opt out should they wish to.