

HISTORY OF BLUES AND ROCK

Professor: Paul Reller

Hello. Welcome to the History of Blues and Rock. My name is Paul Reller, and I'm a composer and a rock musician myself. In fact, I went to school for classical music and spent many years there learning about the history of European music. And it wasn't until I was in my graduate studies that I became very interested in the history of my first music, music I grew up on, which is blues and rock.

And that's what we're going to be doing in this class. We're going to be going back through the history of American popular music-- jazz, blues, ragtime, minstrel music-- for the past 150 years or so, and finding out where your music came from, the music that you were born into and are so familiar with. So it's hard for students at first to listen to old music and say, oh, well that's where my music came from. But that's really what we're going to be doing. And over the course of this semester, you'll be analyzing current pop songs, blues and rock songs, and comparing them to historical traits that music in this country's had for over 100 years.

So I look for the semester, and if you ever have any questions, please feel free to contact me or my TAs.