Instructor: Dr. Allison Johnson
Contact email: johnsall@oregonstate.edu
Office Hours: Wednesdays 10am-12 noon and by skype or phone appointment (skype: DrAllisonJohnson)

Prerequisites: None

Course Description:
This course explores the historical context and the musical and cultural issues stemming from the popular music scene in the 90s from the Pacific Northwest, the “Grunge” genre. We will examine the artistic and political landscapes of the era which gave rise to the movement, in particular the influences of the music of the Sub Pop label, the Riot Grrrl movement, and its punk and alternative rock roots.

Course Policies:
You are to consider the information and issues presented weekly in conjunction with the required reading, weekly on-line discussions, listening, and video/film.

Due dates are firm. Any late work may be accepted only at the discretion of the instructor and will lose percentage points for each day it is late.

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 – 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 – 86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73 – 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63 – 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 – 92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 – 82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 – 72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60 – 62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 – 89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 – 79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67 – 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 – 59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course evaluation
We encourage you to engage in the course evaluation process each term – online, of course. The evaluation form will be available toward the end of each term, and instructions will be sent by E-campus. You will login to “Student Online Services” to respond to the online questionnaire. The results on the form are anonymous and are not tabulated until after grades are posted.
Learning Resources
Readings will be provided on Canvas online and include excerpts from:

- Grunge Is Dead: The Oral History of Seattle Rock Music by Greg Prato
- The Strangest Tribe: How a Group of Seattle Rock Bands Invented Grunge by Stephen Tow
- Everybody Loves Our Town: An Oral History of Grunge by Mark Yarm
- Girls to the Front: The True Story of the Riot Grrrl Revolution by Sara Marcus
- Additional handouts and articles will be required throughout the course

Students with Documented Disabilities:
Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by Disability Access Services (DAS). If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098 or at http://ds.oregonstate.edu. DAS notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations.

Student Conduct
The Student Conduct Code establishes community standards and procedures necessary to maintain and protect an environment conducive to learning, in keeping with the educational objectives of Oregon State University. This code is based on the assumption that all persons must treat one another with dignity and respect in order for scholarship to thrive. For the full Student Conduct Code see http://oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/

GRADING POLICY:
Tests, assignments and discussions contribute to the final grades as follows:

- Weekly quizzes 60%
- Weekly discussion participation 20%
- Individual Final Project 20%

(Late work will be given a reduction of points and is accepted at the discretion of the instructor.)

Quizzes
There will be 8 weekly quizzes. Each is to be taken at one sitting and you have an hour to complete the work. There will be between 10-20 questions each week.

Discussion Board
There will be 7 discussion board assignments.
In addition to weekly quizzes, students will be required to contribute their own observations and questions about weekly assigned questions and/or web links relevant to the Unit being studied. Every student is required to participate significantly in these discussions. Simply summarizing what is on the link is not enough of a contribution. Think a minimum of 3 sentences (per question). Please try to respond during the week rather than waiting until Sunday night to contribute. The discussion board is an opportunity for students to engage with one another during the week about the various topics and materials. Please read your classmates’ work and respond to AT LEAST one post made throughout the week in addition to your own post. Grading will be based on both the quality and quantity of contributions. The discussion board will be graded by the following Sunday at the latest.

**Final Paper: Band Study**
Choose an important group from Grunge or the related alternative genres we’ve discussed. In a paper of 5+ pages, analyze a significant aspect of their work in the context of the movement as a whole. This may be an analysis of an album, a specific song (must be a substantial discussion, of course), a concert, or other compelling aspect of their music. Be sure to include concepts we’ve covered in class and the discussion forums.

**GENERAL PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE**
(Subject to change. Please stay current and up to date with the class.)

**Week One**
1. Lecture: *Introduction, Punk and Post-Punk*
2. Readings include: Prato, chs. 1-2
3. Familiarize yourself with the online discussion forum and introduce yourself this week! Start with answering this: what’s the best punk or grunge song, and why?

**Week Two**
1. Lecture: *Early 80s: Creativity in the Northwest*
2. Readings include: Prato, chs. 3-7
3. Quiz #1 must be completed by Sunday 11:55pm Pacific Time
4. Participate in the Discussion Forum by Thursday 11:55pm Pacific Time

**Week Three**
1. Lecture: *Late 80s: Melvins, Soundgarden, Alice in Chains*
2. Readings include: Prato, chs. 8-10.
3. Quiz #2 must be completed by Sunday 11:55pm
4. Participate in the Discussion Forum by Thursday 11:55pm
Week Four
1. Lecture: **Smells Like Nirvana**
2. Readings include: Prato, ch. 12
3. Quiz #3 must be completed by Sunday 11:55pm
4. Participate in the Discussion Forum by Thursday 11:55pm

Week Five
1. Lecture: **Come out and play with me: Riot Grrrls**
2. Readings include: Prato, ch. 22, 27; Sara Marcus, chapter 5.
3. Quiz #4 must be completed by Sunday 11:55pm
4. Participate in the Discussion Forum by Thursday 11:55pm

Week Six
1. Lecture: **Take my hand, not my picture: Pearl Jam**
2. Readings include: Prato, chs. 23-25
3. Quiz #5 must be completed by Sunday 11:55pm
4. Participate in the Discussion Forum by Thursday 11:55pm

Week Seven
1. Lecture: **OK – This is going to happen**
2. Readings include: Prato, chs. 16-21
3. Quiz #6 must be completed by Sunday 11:55pm
4. Participate in the Discussion Forum by Thursday 11:55pm
5. Submit a one-paragraph proposal of your final paper. (Recommended)

Week Eight
1. Lecture: **Things change, and things change quickly**
2. Readings include: Prato, chs. 23, 25-26
3. Quiz #7 must be completed by Sunday 11:55pm
4. Participate in the Discussion Forum by Thursday 11:55pm

Week Nine
1. Lecture: **Dissolve and Depart**
2. Readings include: Prato, chs. 29-34
3. Quiz #8 must be completed by Sunday 11:55pm
4. Participate in the Discussion Forum by Thursday 11:55pm
5. Submit a draft of your final paper. (Recommended)

Week Ten
Final Lecture: **Post-Grunge: What Will Be Remembered?**

Week 10 will also be devoted to completing and submitting your Final Paper. Your document needs to be sent directly to CANVAS Wednesday of Week 10 by 11:55pm. Please make sure to use word document for sending in your material and to include your full name, telephone number and email (in case there is a problem opening your work). Submit on CANVAS under Week 10.