

Assignment #2
POPULAR MUSIC AND MASS CULTURE

Choose a recording produced between 1964 and 1969 (either a 7" 4rpm single or a 33rpm LP intended as a coherent and delimited text) that you feel you can comfortably identify as belonging to the 'rock' tradition. What characteristics does the recording of your choice possess that permits you to place it within that tradition?

Drawing on Keir Keightley's discussion of 'authenticity' as one of the dominant forms in which the rock ethos manifests itself, your paper should analyze the chosen text in terms of the type of 'authenticity' it embodies. Your analysis should take into consideration as many of the pertinent levels of the text that you feel concur in constructing its meaning. You should not, therefore, simply limit yourself to musical features and lyrics but include performance, delivery and other stylistic features, extra-textual elements such as visuals (image, record sleeve, etc) as well as intertextual elements (relations with other musical performances, past musical practices, etc) and contextual elements (mainly social and historical forces pushing in on the text). Be incisive, inquisitive and...

Your paper should be 3-5 pages, typed, double-spaced in 12-point font.

If you have problems choosing a record or having access to one feel free to contact me and I will be happy to point you in the right direction.

Also, as I told you, the above assignment is open to modification to the extent that you are free, if you wish, to choose your examples (texts) from a different historical period. As long as you discuss the main issues that are being requested.