

## **MUS 2304. Sound of Rock.**

### **Assignment: Album Review**

**Due date: February 4, 2015 AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS**

YOU MAY WORK WITH A PARTNER! Please label the submitted assignment with both names and student numbers.

Choose an album from the list at the bottom of this document. All albums were released in 2014. There is a fair representation of rock genres on this list.

Listen to the full album (as available on YouTube or other media access).

All the albums listed (except for the two marked with an asterisk \*) are included in this YouTube playlist: [http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFJYQbCgIxxHk6aqcCRxQCQ8Nn\\_9baewC&feature=mh\\_lolz](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFJYQbCgIxxHk6aqcCRxQCQ8Nn_9baewC&feature=mh_lolz)

Read some sample reviews on <http://www.sputnikmusic.com> and <http://pitchfork.com>. I advise you NOT to read reviews for the album that you choose. This will influence your thinking and you may find it difficult not to include the comments that you read in the published review. For examples of reviews, check out some of the reviews written by STAFF writers.

Review length should meet the following parameters: 1-2 pages, double spaced, size 12 font, 1 inch margins all around.

**Your name, student number and album choice must be clearly marked at the top of page 1.**

Review content should meet the following expectations:

- clear and cogent writing, with attention to spelling, grammar and paragraph structure;
- avoid personal feelings and emotions;
- offer a critical opinion and interpretation that is informed and engaged with content
- present the strengths and weaknesses of the album;
- offer contexts of the album: who is the artist/band; where is this album in the career of the artist/band; how does the band and this album connect to the relevant genre?
- offer analytic remarks about musical content and expression, but do not present a simple track-by-track listing of content;
- album titles in italics (*album*); song titles in quotation marks (“song”)
- make connections!

Assignment will be graded on the following rubric:

### **ASSESSMENT: total out of 30**

#### **PRESENTATION: 10**

Format/writing/grammar/expression/organization

#### **OPINION: 10**

Critical opinion and interpretation

Strengths and weaknesses of album

#### **CONTENT: 10**

Contexts/artist career/genre

Comments on musical content and expression

\* indicates that there is no single YouTube clip with the full album, but there are playlists for these albums with the individual tracks bundled together. I have NOT added these playlists to the Album Review playlist, but you can easily retrieve them on your own.

\*Against Me! *Transgender Dysphoria Blues*  
Agalloch *The Serpent and the Sphere*  
Alt-J *This is All Yours*  
Anathema *Distant Satellites*  
Behemoth *The Satanist*  
Coldplay *Ghost Stories*  
\*Counting Crows *Somewhere Under Wonderland*  
Foo Fighters *Sonic Highways*  
\*Interpol *El Pintor*  
Jack White *Lazaretto*  
Mastodon *Once More 'Round The Sun*  
\*Matt Mays *Coyote*  
\*The New Pornographers *Brill Bruisers*  
Opeth *Pale Communion*  
Slipknot *.5: The Gray Chapter*  
Spoon *They Want My Soul*  
St. Vincent *St. Vincent*  
Swans *To Be Kind*  
\*Taking Back Sunday *Happiness Is*  
The War on Drugs *Lost in the Dream*  
Weezer *Everything Will Be All Right In the End*  
\*Young the Giant *Mind Over Matter*