

Rock and Roll

from Iggy Pop to Brian Eno through CBGB and David Byrne

Levels B1 – C2 - David Herz

From around 1973 to the early 1980s, the CBGB club scene in New York City reinvented rock and roll. Despite its name, Country Blue Grass Blues, of which the club had none, everyone from *The Police* to *Patti Smith* to *Richard Hell and the Voidoids* graced its cramped space and genius sound engineer who made the sound there so memorable. The club claims to have invented underground rock or at least a street level variety....

The variety of acts and styles that went through its doors when I was there from 1976 to 1979 included: The Ramones, who made one two three four a rock anthem with simple and lovable melodies, Television which brought guitar improvisation to a new height of artistry, *The Cramps* who made Rockabilly right for normal people, *The Talking Heads* led by the all round and still around musical genius *David Byrne*, *Wayne Country* and transvestite rock, the transvestites and Hells Angels who were there, *The Dictators* with their macho brand of rock, *Suicide* who played not long ago at the Fondation Cartier in Paris, and of course *Richard Hell and the Voidoids* whose guitarist later played with *Lou Reed*. This is New York at its most dangerous and rock and roll at its most vital, before AIDS, just before crack cocaine, a city riddled with crime, art, literature and invention.

In this course you will sing the lyrics, hear the songs, analyze the context and the meaning of it all.

Your grade will be based on participation and presentations.