R&B and Soul
R&B (Rhythm and Blues)

• R&B now and then, use of term
• Early characteristics:
  – shouter singing style
  – boogie-woogie piano

Ex: Joe Turner and Pete Johnson – “Roll ‘Em Pete” (1938)
R&B

• Fully formed by 1940s
• Big band swing dies during WWII, leads to smaller combos
• Urban image from swing/jazz origins

• Instrument lineup
• Sounds like 50s Rock n Roll (black/white)

• Fast/lively
• fun/party/sex
• 12-bar blues form (or similar derivatives) very common
Louis Jordan (1908-1975)

- b. Brinkley, Arkansas (Delta)
- Father led dance band in Little Rock
- Alto Sax at 7
- 1935: NYC, Chick Webb’s band with Ella Fitzgerald
- Hollywood
Ex: Louis Jordan – “Caledonia” (1945)
- Jump blues
- Tympany Five: backed Bing, Louis, Ella, etc.
Fats Domino (1928-2017)

• b. Antoine Domino, New Orleans, Louisiana
• 1st recording, #2 R&B

Ex: Fats Domino – “The Fat Man” (1949)

• Commercial peak mid-50s
• Part of rock and roll boom
Fats Domino

Ex: Fats Domino – “Ain’t That a Shame” (1955)
• Crossover to RnR? (#1 R&B, #10 Pop)

• Covered by Pat Boone
  – white cover versions, success, changes

Ex: Pat Boone
  – “Ain’t That a Shame” (1955)
Little Richard (1932-)

• Richard Wayne Penniman
• b. Macon, Georgia

Ex: Little Richard – “Tutti Frutti” (1955)
• From nightclub act:
  “Tutti Frutti Good Booty”
  cleaned up for record

Ex: Pat Boone – “Tutti Frutti” (1955)
• Outsold original 5:1
• Pat Boone not keen on this cover
• Common practice in 40s and 50s
Little Richard

- Hollywood
- Long career
- Rock and roll

Ex: Little Richard

- “Long Tall Sally” (1956)

- Both examples recorded in New Orleans, other recording dates in NO and LA