

Freshman Seminar: Musical Subcultures of the Sixties

Spring 2018

Course no. FSEM 100

Section no. 34619R

Units: 2

Time: Wednesdays 4:00-5:50pm

Room: WPH 104

Course instructor: Bill Biersach

Instructor's office: MUS 316

Instructor's office hours: MW 9 – 10:30 am

Office phone: (213) 740-7416

Instructor's email: biersach@usc.edu

The Premise

“One of the good things that happened in the sixties was that at least some music of an *unusual* or *experimental* nature got recorded and released ...”

—Frank Zappa

During the 1960s, various popular musical styles developed which expressed the social, cultural, religious, political and sexual changes in our society. While the music of the period survives today and enjoys considerable popularity, much of the meaning behind it has been lost simply because the context has largely been forgotten. In this seminar we will sift through the lyrics, compare musical styles, facts, tall tales, and contrived myths surrounding these influential recording artists. In so doing we will attempt to arrive at an understanding of what was really going on in the music industry, the drug scene, the pop culture, social movements, and the minds of the youth during those turbulent years.

Instructional Strategy

This is a ten-week course.

Each week there will be a reading assignment. Students will prepare two discussion points.

Musical examples will be presented by the professor along with lyrics, and discussion will ensue.

In addition, the students will divide into teams of two or three, select topics they wish to explore, and then give an oral presentation in class.

Grades and Expectations

This is a credit/no-credit course. Credit will be given to students who fulfill the assignments, participate in class discussions, and who give thoughtful, organized presentations.

Text

The required text will be a Course Reader which is available in the Bookstore.

Schedule of Reading Assignments

WEEK	MEETING	ARTICLE BY
1.	Jan. 10	_____
2.	Jan. 17	David Crosby (Crosby, Stills, and Nash)
3.	Jan. 24	John Densmore (The Doors)
4.	Jan. 31	Abbie Hoffman (Political activist)
5.	Feb. 7	Timothy Leary (LSD activist)
6.	Feb. 14	Bob Spitz (Journalist)
7.	Feb. 21	Bill Wyman (The Rolling Stones)
8.	Feb. 28	John Lennon (The Beatles)
9.	Mar. 7	John Lennon (The Beatles)
10.	Mar. 14	[Spring break]
11.	Mar. 21	Frank Zappa (The Mothers of Invention)

The University's Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, "Behavior Violating University Standards" <https://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

Support Systems:

Student Counseling Services (SCS) - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling/>

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1-800-273-8255

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>

Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 - 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp/>

Sexual Assault Resource Center

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: <http://sarc.usc.edu/>

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX compliance – (213) 740-5086

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. <https://equity.usc.edu/>

Bias Assessment Response and Support

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. <https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support/>

Student Support & Advocacy – (213) 821-4710

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. <https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa/>

Diversity at USC – <https://diversity.usc.edu/>

Tabs for Events, Programs and Training, Task Force (including representatives for each school), Chronology, Participate, Resources for Students

Bibliography

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