# Classic Rock: Popular Music of the Sixties and Seventies

Fall 2014

Course no. MUSC 423

Section no. 47225D

Units: 2

Time: M 6 – 7:50 pm

Room: THH 202

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](mailto:biersach@usc.edu)

Teaching assistants: Bryan Kostors and McKay Tebbs

# Introduction and Purpose

“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**

# This course will familiarize the student with a broad spectrum of musical styles that were popular between the years 1962 and 1973. The intent is to inform the student regarding the recording technologies available and the business practices in place at the time, the origin of a wide variety of styles and specific recording acts, and an understanding of the underlying social, economic, political, and cultural issues that gave rise to them. The goal is to imbue the student with an appreciation for this music that has survived four decades and continues to find a niche in popular culture.

# Instructional Strategy

Each week the professor will present a lecture for the first hour of the class. Musical examples will be played, brief bios of the artists will be provided, and styles will be explored.The second hour of the class will be devoted to pertinent film clips and discussion of the texts led by the teaching assistants.

# Grades

The course grade will be determined by averaging the three exam scores. (33 percent + 33 percent +34 percent)Each midterm and the final exam will have two parts. The first part will be written by the professor and will be based on the lectures. The second part will be written by the teaching assistants and will be based on the texts and the discussions regarding them.A 94-100% C 74-76%A- 90-93% C- 70-73%B+ 87-89% D+ 67-69%B 84-86% D 64-66%B- 80-83% D- 60-63%C+ 77-79% F 0-59%

# Texts

The required text this semester will be:

*Rock Music Styles*, 6th Edition, by Katherine Charlton; McGraw-Hill.

# Students with Disabilities

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Website and contact information for DSP: <http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html>,

(213) 740-0776 (Phone), (213) 740-6948 (TDD only), (213) 740-8216 (FAX) [ability@usc.edu](mailto:ability@usc.edu).

# Academic Integrity

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include  the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one’s own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another’s work as one’s own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. *SCampus*, the Student Guidebook, ([www.usc.edu/scampus](http://www.usc.edu/scampus) or [http://scampus.usc.edu](http://scampus.usc.edu/)) contains the University Student Conduct Code (see University Governance, Section 11.00), while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A.

# Emergency Preparedness in a Crisis

In case of a declared emergency if travel to campus is not feasible, USC executive leadership will announce an electronic way for instructors to teach students in their residence halls or homes using a combination of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technologies.

**Classic Rock**

# Schedule of Lecture Topics

Week Date Topic/Comments \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Aug. 25 Preliminaries—“Hey Joe”

2. Sept. 1 Labor Day (holiday)

3. Sept. 8 Hits of the early 60s

4. Sept. 15 The British Invasion

. Sept. 16 – Last Day to Drop or Change

Monday-only classes

5. Sept. 22 U.S. Reaction

6. Sept. 29 **FIRST MIDTERM EXAM**

7. Oct. 6 Bob Dylan

8. Oct. 13 Folk Rock

9. Oct. 20 The Protestors

1. Oct. 27 Jimi Hendrix

11. Nov. 3 **SECOND MIDTERM EXAM**

12. Nov. 10 Power Trios

. Nov. 14 – Last Day to Drop with “W”

13. Nov. 17 The Progressives

14. Nov. 24 The Psychedelics

15. Dec. 1 The Dark Side

16. Dec. 8 (Stop)

17, Dec. 15 **FINAL EXAM: Monday, 7 – 9 PM**

# Bibliography

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Oxford University Press, New York, 2005

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