

MUSC 424

Iconic Figures of Popular Music: Simon and Garfunkel

Fall 2018

Course no. MUSC 424

Section no. 47228

Units: 2

Time: Mondays 10:00-11:50pm

Room: KDC 241

Course instructor: Bill Biersach

Instructor's office: MUS 316

Instructor's office hours: MW 9 – 9:50 am; 12 – 1 pm

Office phone: (213) 740-7416

Instructor's email: biersach@usc.edu

The Premise

Singer-songwriter Paul Simon and singer Art Garfunkel called themselves Tom and Jerry in 1957. They had a minor hit called “Hey Schoolgirl,” but they hardly considered themselves successful. Wonder of wonders, they emerged again in 1965 with a profoundly thought-provoking song called “Sounds of Silence.” Their music was further propelled by the inclusion of the song “Mrs. Robinson” in the classic Mike Nichols-directed film *The Graduate*. During the next few years they won many distinguishing awards. For example in 1971 their album *Bridge Over Troubled Waters* won the Record of the Year, Album of the Year, Song of the Year, Best Contemporary Song, Best Instrumental Arrangement Accompanying Vocalist(s), Best Engineered Recording, and Best Contemporary Vocal Group Grammy Awards. In 1990 they were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and in 2004 received the prestigious Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award. Truly this duo is one of the most remembered acts of the 1960s, and their music is certainly worth examination.

Course Goal

In this seminar we will scrutinize the output of this talented but turbulent duo from the standpoint of lyrics, musical style, philosophy, instrumentation, performance, and production. Students will be assigned specific songs to research in all these areas and prepare presentations based on their findings. Students who play guitar will be encouraged to demonstrate Paul Simon's unique acoustic guitar techniques, and singers will be asked to analyze Simon and Garfunkel's haunting harmonies. In the end it is hoped that each student will leave with an enhanced appreciation for the time known as the Sixties, with all its floral imagery and serious conflicts, from the innocence of animals “At the Zoo” to the experience and suffering of “The Boxer.”

Grades

Grades will be based on the following:

Weekly assignments (written discussion points based on reading assignments)	25 Points
Oral presentations (album reviews)	25 Points
Three essay exams	25 Points
Participation (attendance and class engagement)	25 Points

Scores for course grade will be tabulated as follows:

94 - 100	A
90 - 93	A-
87 - 89	B+
84 - 86	B
80 - 83	B-
77 - 79	C+
74 - 76	C
70 - 73	C-
67 - 69	D+
64 - 66	D
60 - 63	D-
0 - 59	F

Texts

Required:

Available in Kindle editions:

Kingston, Victoria *Simon and Garfunkel: The Biography.*
New York, Fromm International, 1998.
ISBN 13: 978-0880642460
ASIN: B00F7S67OI

Leigh, Spencer *Simon & Garfunkel Together Alone*
London, McNidder & Grace, 2016.
ISBN: 978-0857161505
ASIN: B01KKBI600

SIMON AND GARFUNKEL
Schedule of Music Presentations and Reading Assignments

Fall 2018

WEEK	ALBUM	DATE	Victoria Kingston <i>The Biography</i>	Spencer Leigh <i>Together Alone</i>
1.	Preliminaries	Aug. 20		
2.	WM3AM	Aug. 27	Chpts. 1-3	—
3.	(Holiday)	Sept. 3	—	—
4.	WM3AM	Sept. 10	—	Chpts.1-2
Sept. 13 – Last Day to Drop, Add, Etc.				
5.	Sounds of Silence	Sept. 17	Chpts. 4-5	—
6.	Sounds of Silence	Sept. 24	—	Chpts. 3-4
7.	1ST MIDERM	Oct. 1	—	—
8.	PSR&T	Oct. 8	Chpt. 6-7	—
9.	PSR&T	Oct. 15	—	Chpt. 5
10.	Bookends	Oct. 22	Chpt. 8	—
11.	2ND MIDTERM	Oct. 29	—	—
12.	Bookends <i>The Graduate</i>	Nov. 5	—	Chpt. 6
Nov. 11 – Last Day to Drop with “W”				
13.	Bridge Over	Nov. 12	Chpt. 9-12	—
14.	Bridge Over <i>Catch 22</i>	Nov. 19	—	Chpts. 7-8
15.	Paul Simon Art Garfunkel	Nov. 26	Chpts. 13-14	Chpt. 9-10
16.	FINAL EXAM	Monday, Dec. 10	8 – 9 am. YIKES!!!!	

LAPTOP COMPUTERS, PRINTERS, AND CELL PHONES

It is expected that students in this class will have their own (or access to a) laptop computer for the giving of presentations and a printer for submitting assignments.

However, during class the professor asks that you not use your digital phones, laptops, and/or other communication devices. Studies show that the use of these devices tends to distract students from the subject under discussion.

Notes should be taken by hand.

If you wish to use a device to look up a fact under discussion, please request permission to do so, and put away the device immediately afterwards.

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. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776,
http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html.

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, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: <http://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>. Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic

dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/>.

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.

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 (books consulted while creating this course)

- Brackett, David *The Pop, Rock, and Soul Reader* (Third Edition)
New York, Oxford University Press, 2005.
ISBN 978-0-19-981170-0
- Browne, David. *Fire and Rain: The Beatles, Simon and Garfunkel,
James Taylor, CSNY, and the Lost Story of 1970.*
New York, De Capo Press, 20011.
ISBN: 0306820722
- Carton, Katherine *Rock Music Styles.* Seventh edition. New York,
McGraw Hill, 2008.
ISBN: 0078025184
- Covach, John and
Flory, Andrew *What's That Sound? An Introduction to Rock and
It's History* (Fourth edition), Norton & Company,
New York, 2012.
ISBN-13: 978-0393124347
- Eliot, Mark Paul Simon: A Life. Hoboken NJ, John Wiley & Sons,
Inc., 2010.
ISBN 13: 978-0-470-43363-8
- Garafalo. Reebee *Rockin' Out: Popular Music in the USA,* (Fourth
Edition) Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ, 2008
ISBN-13: 978-0-13-234305-3
- Gitlin, Todd *The Sixties: Days of Hope, Days of Rage*
Bantam Books, New York, 1987
ISBN 0-553-05233-0
- Kingston, Victoria *Simon and Garfunkel: The Biography.* New York,
Fromm International, 1998.
ISBN 13: 978-0880642460

ASIN: B00F7S67OI

Lazell, Barry
(editor)

Rock Movers and Shakers
Billboard Publications, New York, 1989.
ISBN 0-8230-7608-3

Leigh, Spencer

Simon & Garfunkel Together Alone
London, McNidder & Grace, 2016.
ISBN: 978-0857161505
ASIN: B01KKBI600

Morella, Joe and
Barey, Patricia

*Simon and Garfunkel: Old Friends: A Dual
Biography.* New York, Carol Publishing
Corporation. 1991
ISBN 13: 978-1559720892

Parles, John and
Romanowski, Patricia

The Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll
Rolling Stone Press, New York, 1983.
ISBN 0-671-44071-3

Pattison, Robert

*The Triumph of Vulgarly:
Popular Music in the Mirror of Romanticism*
Oxford University Press, New York, 1987
ISBN 0-19-503876-2

Schloss, Joseph G.,
Starr, Larry, and
Waterman, Christopher

Rock Music, Culture., and Business
Oxford University Press, New York, 2012
ISBN: 978-0-19-975836-4

Simon, Paul.

Simon and Garfunkel's Greatest Hits. New York,
Music Sales America, 1992.
ISBN: 0860012778