

Iconic Figures of Popular Music: Seminar on Jimi Hendrix **Fall 2018**

Course no. MUSC 424
Section no. 47229
Units: 2
Time: Wednesdays 10:00 - 11:50 am
Room: KDC 241

Course instructor: Bill Biersach
Instructor's office: MUS 316
Instructor's office hours: MW 9 – 9:50 am; M 2 – 3 pm
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Instructor's email: biersach@usc.edu

THE PREMISE:

James Marshall “Jimi” Hendrix won many of the most significant rock music awards in his lifetime, and many more have been awarded posthumously. He was inducted into the U.S. Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1992, and the U.K. Music Hall of Fame in 2005. He was granted a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1994; was named the top guitarist of *Rolling Stone's* all-time greatest list in 2003; and was the first person inducted into the Native American Music Hall of Fame in 1998. In addition to his guitar playing, he was an innovative producer in his exploration of stereophonic and phasing effects. Though his career was tragically cut short, he still exerts a powerful influence on electric guitarists and recording artists to this day.

COURSE GOAL:

In this course we will scrutinize the music of Jimi Hendrix from the standpoint of performance skill, arrangement, lyrics, recording techniques, electric guitar effects, and influence upon other musicians of his time and after. Because Hendrix's recorded output was rather small, we will be able to examine every song in his catalog of official releases.

My goal as instructor is to guide my students as they explore his music, but in their own time frame and on their own terms. If indeed Jimi Hendrix was the musical genius many claim him to be, then let us see if his tracks hold up currently. There can be no doubt of his relevance to the sixties; let us see if he is speaking to us today.

TEXTS:**Required:**

Redding, Noel & Appleby, Carol. *Are You Experienced: The Inside Story of the Jimi Hendrix Experience*. Cambridge, MA: Da Capo Press, 1996. ISBN-13: 978-0306806810 (alk. paper).

Shadwick, Keith. *Jimi Hendrix: Musician*. San Francisco: Backbeat Books. Revised second edition, 2012. ISBN: 978-0-87930-960-2 (pbk).

Also recommended would be the three studio albums on which we are going to concentrate:

Are You Experienced? — 1967
Axis: Bold as Love — 1968
Electric Ladyland — 1968

GRADES

Grades will be based on the following:

Weekly assignments (written discussion points based on the texts)	25 Points
Oral presentations (album reviews)	25 Points
Three essay exams	25 Points
Class participation	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

JIMI HENDRIX
Schedule of Music Presentations and Reading Assignments

Fall 2018

WEEK	ALBUM/TOPIC	DATE	Keith Shadwick <i>Jimi Hendrix: Musician</i>	Noel Redding <i>Are You Experienced</i>
1.	Preliminaries	Aug. 22		
2.	01 <i>Are You Experienced?</i>	Aug. 29	Introduction and Chpts. 1-4	
3.	02 <i>Are You Experienced?</i>	Sept. 5	Chpts. 5-7	Chpt. 1
4.	03 <i>Are You Experienced?</i>	Sept. 12	Chpts. 8-10	Chpt. 2
5.	04 <i>Monterey Pop Festival</i>	Sept. 19	Chpt. 11	Chpt. 3
6.	1ST MIDERM	Sept. 26		
7.	05 <i>Axis: Bold as Love</i>	Oct. 3	Chpts. 12-13	Chpt. 4
8.	<i>Guitar/Effects Demo</i>	Oct. 10		
9.	06 <i>Axis: Bold as Love</i>	Oct. 17	Chpts. 14-15	
11.	2ND MIDTERM	Oct. 24		
10.	07 <i>Electric Ladyland</i>	Oct. 31	Chpts. 16-17	Chpt. 5
12.	08 <i>Electric Ladyland</i>	Nov. 7	Chpt. 18	Chpt. 6
13.	09 <i>Electric Ladyland</i> 10 <i>Woodstock</i>	Nov. 14	Chpt. 19	
14.	Holiday	Nov. 21 Thanksgiving Week		
15.	11 <i>Band of Gypsies</i> 12 <i>First Rays of the New Rising Sun</i> <i>People, Hell and Angels</i>)	Nov. 28	Chpts. 20-21	Chpt. 7 (Chpts. 8-10 optional)
16.	9-10am	Monday, Dec. 10 FINAL EXAM		

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 and from focused listening to musical examples.

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/>

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY (books consulted while creating this course)

- Appleby, Carol,
and Redding, Noel *Are You Experienced? The Inside Story of the Jimi Hendrix Experience*. Cambridge, Da Capo Press, 1996.
ISBN-13: 978-0306806810
- Brackett, David *The Pop, Rock, and Soul Reader* (Third Edition)
Oxford University Press, New York, 2005
ISBN 978-0-19-981170-0
- Campbell, Michael, and
Brody, James *Rock and Roll: An Introduction*. New York,
Schirmer Books, 1999.
ISBN: 0534642950
- Carton, Katherine *Rock Music Styles*. Seventh edition. New York,
McGraw Hill, 2008.
ISBN: 0078025184
- Cianc, Bob *Great Rock Drummers of the Sixties*
Hal Leonard Publishing Corp., Milwaukee, 1989
ISBN 0-88188-830-3
- 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
- Cross, Charles R. *Room Full of Mirrors: A Biography of Jimi Hendrix*.
New York, Hyperion Books, 2006.
ISBN: 978-0786888412
- Dannemann, Monika *The Inner World of Jimi Hendrix*. New York, St.
Martin's Press, 1996.
ISBN: 0747523142
- 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
- Henderson, David *'Scuse Me While I Kiss the Sky: Jimi Hendrix: Voodoo
Child*. New York, Atria Publishers, 2009.
ISBN: 0743274016
- Kubernick, Harvey *Canyon of Dreams:
The Magic and the Music of Laurel Canyon*
Sterling, New York, 2009

ISBN 978-1-4027-9761-3

- Lawrence, Sharon *Jimi Hendrix: The Intimate Story of a Betrayed Musical Legend.* New York, !t Books (an imprint of Harper Collines Publishers), 2005.
ISBN: 9780060563011
- Mitchell, Mitch *Jimi Hendrix: Inside the Experience*
New York, Harmony (Crown Publishing Group), 1990.
ISBN-13: 978-0517577165
- Murray, Charles Shaar *Crosstown Traffic: Jimi Hendrix and the Post-War Rock 'n' Roll Revolution.* New York, St. Martin's Griffin, 1991.
ISBN: 0312063245
- Parles, John and Romanowski, Patricia *The Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll*
Rolling Stone Press, New York, 1983
ISBN 0-671-44071-3
- Shadwick, Keith *Jimi Hendrix: Musician.* San Francisco: Backbeat Books, 2003.
ISBN: 0879309601
- Shapiro, Harry, and Glebbeek, Caesar *Jimi Hendrix: Electric Gypsy.* New York, St. Martin's Press, 1995.
ISBN: 312130627
- Starr, Larry and Waterman, Christopher *American Popular Music: The Rock Years.*
New York, Oxford University Press, 2006.
ISBN: 0195300521