

## **The Beatles: Their Music and Their Times**

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Fall 2018

Course no. MUSC 422

Section no. 47220

Units: 4

Time: MW 4 – 5:50 pm

Room: THH 202

Course instructor: Bill Biersach

Instructor's office: MUS 316

Instructor's office hours: MW 9 – 9:45 am, M 2 -3 pm

Office phone: (213) 740-7416

Instructor's email: [biersach@usc.edu](mailto:biersach@usc.edu)

Teaching assistants:

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### **Introduction and Purpose**

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The purpose of this course is to familiarize the student with the music, lyrics, recordings, personal and public lives, production techniques, career strategy, social ramifications, and technological impact of the musical group known as The Beatles. The goal is to imbue the student with an appreciation for the music itself, a basic understanding of the primitive technology available at the time (both recording and playing back), and a broader comprehension of the social, economic, political, and cultural upheavals that gave rise to the musical trends of the Sixties.

### **Instructional Strategy**

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Each week the professor will present a lecture which will include musical examples, lyrics, and pertinent background information on the four Beatles, their personal and professional dealings, their approach to live performance and studio recording, and the activities of their managerial and production staff.

There will also be a section devoted to the viewing of films, pertinent film clips, documentaries, and discussion of the texts led by a teaching assistant.

Typically, lectures will be on Mondays and the discussions on Wednesdays.

## **Examinations and Grades**

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There will be three examinations: two midterms and a final. Each exam will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions on Scantron answer sheets. In addition, students will circle the answers in the examination question booklets as a backup.

The Scantrons will be graded by computer, and Blackboard will add your three scores and determine your final grade based on the following ranges:

A	141	-	150
A -	135	-	140
B +	130	-	134
B	126	-	129
B -	120	-	125
C +	115	-	119
C	111	-	114
C -	105	-	110
D +	100	-	104
D	96	-	99
D -	90	-	95
F	0	-	89

The second midterm and final examination will be non-cumulative.

## **Text**

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The required text this semester will be:

Spitz, Bob     *The Beatles: The Biography*  
New York, Back Bay Books, 2006  
ISBN-13: 978-0316013314 (paperback)  
ISBN-13: 987-0316803526 (hard cover)  
Also available digitally.

## The Beatles

### Schedule of Lecture Topics

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Week	Lecture MONDAY	Discussion WEDNESDAY	Lecture Topic
1.	Aug. 20	Aug. 22	Preliminaries
2.	Aug. 27	Aug. 29	Early years
3.	Sept. 3 [Holiday]	Sept. 5	<i>Please Please Me</i>
	Sept. 7		Last day to drop with refund, also to change letter grade to P/NP, etc.
4.	Sept. 10	Sept. 12	<i>With the Beatles</i>
5.	Sept. 17	Sept. 19	<i>A Hard Day's Night</i>
6.	Sept. 24 1st Midterm Exam	Sept. 26	<i>Beatles for Sale</i>
7.	Oct. 1	Oct. 3	<i>Help!</i>
	Oct. 5		Last day to drop w/o "W" or to change P/NP to a letter grade.
8.	Oct. 8	Oct. 10	<i>Rubber Soul</i>
9.	Oct. 15	Oct. 17	<i>Revolver</i>
10.	Oct. 22	Oct. 24 2nd Midterm Exam	<i>"Strawberry Fields/Penny Lane"</i>
11.	Oct. 29	Oct. 31	<i>Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band</i>
12.	Nov. 5	Nov. 7	<i>Magical Mystery Tour/Yellow Submarine</i>
	Nov. 9		Last day to drop with a "W"
13.	Nov. 12	Nov. 14	<i>The Beatles</i>
14.	Nov. 19	Nov. 21 [Holiday]	<i>The Beatles/Get Back</i>
15.	Nov. 26	Nov. 28	<i>Abbey Road</i>
16.		Dec. 5	FINAL EXAMINATION, Wednesday, 4:30 – 6:30

## **Devices - Texting**

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Studies show that the use of cell phones, tablets, laptop computers, and other digital communication devices distract students from the subject at hand. Therefore their use will not be allowed in this class. Notes are to be taken by hand.

If you have a special need that requires use of a laptop computer, notify the professor. You will be required to sit in the front row.

## **Students with Disabilities**

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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](http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html).

## **The University's Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems**

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### **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 and updating this course)**

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|-----------------|--|
| Brackett, David | <i>The Pop, Rock, and Soul Reader</i> (Third Edition)<br>Oxford University Press, New York, 2005<br>ISBN 978-0-19-981170-0 |
| Brown, Peter    | <i>The Love You Make</i><br>Signet (McGraw-Hill), New York, 1983<br>ISBN 0-415-12797-8                                     |
| Byrne, David    | <i>How Music Works</i><br>McSweeney's, San Francisco, 2012<br>ISBN 978-1-938073-53-3                                       |
| Coleman, Ray    | <i>Lennon</i><br>McGraw-Hill, New York, 1984<br>ISBN 0-07-011789-6   |
| Coleman, Ray    | <i>The Man Who Made the Beatles:<br/>An Intimate Biography of Brian Epstein</i><br>McGraw-Hill, New York, 1989             |

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- Davies, Hunter      *The Beatles*  
W. W. Norton & Co., New York, 2010  
ISBN-13: 978-0393338744
- Dowdling, William J.      *Beatlesongs*  
Simon & Schuster, New York, 1989  
ISBN 0-8230-7608-3
- Editors of *Billboard*      *Rock Movers and Shakers*  
Billboard Publications, New York, 1989  
ISBN 0-8230-7608-3
- Editors of *Rolling Stone*      *The Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll*  
Rolling Stone Press, New York, 1981  
ISBN 0-671-44071-3
- Editors of *Rolling Stone*      *The Rolling Stone Interviews, 1967-1980*  
Rolling Stone Press, New York, 19981
- Garofalo, 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: Years of Hope, Days of Rage*  
Bantam Books, New York, 1987  
ISBN 0-553-05233-0
- Gunthur, Curt      *The Beatles '64: A Hard Day's Night in America*  
Doubleday, New York, 1989  
ISBN 0-385-24583-1
- Lefcowitz, Eric      *Tomorrow Never Knows: The Beatles Last Concert*  
Terra Firma Books, San Francisco, 1987  
ISBN 0-943249-02-3
- Lewisohn, Mark      *The Beatles Recording Sessions*  
Harmony Books (Crown Publishers), New York,  
1989  
ISBN 0-517-57066-1
- Lewisohn, Mark      *Tune In: The Beatles All These Years*  
Three Rivers Press, New York, 2016  
ISBN-13: 978-1101903292

Martin, George	<i>All You Need Is Ears</i> St. Martin's Press, New York, 1979 ISBN 3-312-02044-9
Norman, Philip	<i>Shout! The Beatles in Their Generation</i> Simon & Shuster, New York, 1981 ISBN 0-671-43253-2
Pattison, Robert	<i>The Triumph of Vulgarly: Rock Music in the Mirror of Romanticism</i> Oxford University Press, New York, 1981 ISBN 0-19-503876-2
Riley, Tim	<i>Tell Me Why</i> Vintage Books, New York, 1988 ISBN 0-679-72198-3
Runstein, Robert E. and Huber, David M.	<i>Modern Recording Techniques</i> Howard W. Sam & Co., Indianapolis, 1987 ISBN 0-672-22451-8
Sheff, David	<i>The Playboy Interviews with John Lennon and Yoko Ono</i> Playboy Press, New York, 1981 ISBN 0-8722333-705-2
Smith, Joe	<i>Off the Record: The Oral History of Popular Music</i> Warner Publications, New York, 1988 ISBN 0-446-51232-X
Somach, Denny, Somach, Kathleen and Gunn, Kevin	<i>Ticket to Ride</i> William Morrow & Co., New York, 1989 ISBN 0-688-08769-8
Spitz, Bob	<i>The Beatles: The Biography</i> Back Bay Books, New York, 2006. ISBN-13: 978-0316013314 (paperback)
Wenner, Jann	<i>Lennon Remembers</i> Straight Arrow Publishers, San Francisco, 1971 SBN: 0/87932/009/5