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 – 9:45 am; M 2-3 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 duet 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94 - 100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90 - 93</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>87 - 89</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>84 - 86</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>80 - 83</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>77 - 79</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>74 - 76</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 - 73</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<td>67 - 69</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>64 - 66</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>60 - 63</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<tr>
<td>0 - 59</td>
<td>F</td>
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</table>

Texts

Required:

Available in Kindle editions:

Kingston, Victoria

*Simon and Garfunkel: The Biography.*
ASIN: B00F7S67OI

Leigh, Spencer

*Simon & Garfunkel Together Alone*
ISBN: 978-0857161505  
ASIN: B01KKB16O0
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Album</th>
<th>Victoria</th>
<th>Spencer</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kingston</td>
<td>Leigh</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The Biography</td>
<td>Together Alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Aug. 20</td>
<td>Preliminaries</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Aug. 27</td>
<td>WM3AM</td>
<td>Chpts. 1-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>(Holiday)</td>
<td>Sept. 3</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Sept. 10</td>
<td>WM3AM</td>
<td>Chpts. 1-2</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Sept. 11</td>
<td>Last day to drop Monday-only classes or to change letter grade to P/NP</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Sept. 17</td>
<td>Sounds of Silence</td>
<td>Chpts. 4-5</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Sept. 24</td>
<td>Sounds of Silence</td>
<td>Chpts. 3-4</td>
<td>—</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Oct 1.</td>
<td>1ST MIDTERM</td>
<td>—</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Oct. 5</td>
<td>Last day to drop w/o “W” or to change P/NP to a letter grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Oct. 8</td>
<td>PSR&amp;T</td>
<td>Chpt. 6-7</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Oct. 15</td>
<td>PSR&amp;T</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Chpt. 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Oct. 22</td>
<td>Bookends</td>
<td>Chpt. 8</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Oct. 29</td>
<td>2ND MIDTERM</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Nov. 5</td>
<td>Bookends</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Chpt. 6</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The Graduate</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nov. 9</td>
<td>Last day to drop with “W”</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Nov. 12</td>
<td>Bridge Over</td>
<td>Chpt. 9-12</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Nov. 19</td>
<td>Bridge Over</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Chpts. 7-8</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov. 26</td>
<td>Paul Simon</td>
<td>Chpts. 13-14</td>
<td>Chpt. 9-10</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Art Garfunkel</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Dec. 10, Monday</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM</td>
<td>8 – 9 am. YIKES!!!!!</td>
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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  

Browne, David.  
New York, De Capo Press, 20011.  
ISBN: 0306820722

Carton, Katherine  
ISBN: 0078025184

Covach, John and Flory, Andrew  

Eliot, Mark  

Garafalo, Reebee  

Gitlin, Todd  
*The Sixties: Days of Hope, Days of Rage*  
Bantam Books, New York, 1987  
ISBN 0-553-05233-0

Kingston, Victoria  
ASIN: B00F7S670I

Lazell, Barry  
(editor)  
*Rock Movers and Shakers*  
ISBN 0-8230-7608-3

Leigh, Spencer  
*Simon & Garfunkel Together Alone*  
ISBN: 978-0857161505
Morella, Joe and Barey, Patricia


Parles, John and Romanowski, Patricia

The Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll

Pattison, Robert

The Triumph of Vulgarity: Popular Music in the Mirror of Romanticism
Oxford University Press, New York, 1987

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.

ISBN: 0860012778