

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

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Spring 2019

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, 12 – 1 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 the teaching assistants.

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, then Blackboard will add and process 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.

## **Texts**

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*The required text this semester will be:*

*The Beatles: The Biography* by Bob Spitz, Back Bay Books, New York, 2006, ISBN-13 978-0316013314; ASIN B00852YXOY

*Recommended, not required:*

*The Love You Make* by Peter Brown, New American Library, New York, 2002, ISBN 9780451207357

*The Beatles* by Hunter Davies, W. W. Norton & Company, New York, 1985, ISBN 0393315711

**The Beatles: Their Music and Their times**  
**Schedule of Topics**

**Spring 2019**

Week	MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	Topic/Comments
1.	Jan. 7	Jan. 9	Early Recordings
2.	Jan. 14	Jan. 16	Liverpool, Hamburg
3.	Jan. 21 [Holiday]	Jan. 23	<i>Please Please Me</i> Friday, Jan. 25 Last day to drop without "W", P/NP, etc.
4.	Jan. 28	Jan. 30	<i>With the Beatles</i>
5.	Feb. 4	Feb. 6	<i>A Hard Day's Night</i>
6.	Feb. 11	<b>Feb. 13</b> <b>1st Midterm Exam</b>	<i>Beatles for Sale</i>
7.	Feb. 18 [Holiday]	Feb. 20	<i>Help!</i> Friday, Feb. 22 Last day to change Pass/No Pass to Letter Grade
8.	Feb. 25	Feb. 27	<i>Rubber Soul/Revolver</i>
9.	Mar. 4	Mar. 6	<i>Revolver</i> /"Strawberry Fields Forever"/"PennyLane"
10.	Mar. 11	Mar. 13	SPRING BREAK
11.	Mar. 18	Mar. 20	<i>Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band</i>
12.	Mar. 25	<b>Mar. 27</b> <b>2nd Midterm Exam</b>	<i>Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band</i> cont'd.
13.	Apr. 1	Apr. 3	<i>Magical Mystery Tour/Yellow Submarine</i> Friday, Apr. 5 Last day to drop with "W"
14.	Apr. 8	Apr. 10	<i>The Beatles</i> ("The White Album")
15.	Apr. 15	Apr. 17	<i>The Beatles</i> ("The White Album") cont'd <i>Let It Be</i> ("Get Back")
16.	Apr. 22	Apr. 24	<i>Abbey Road</i>
17.	<b>May 1</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM—4:30-6:30 pm</b>

## Statement of Academic Conduct

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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 Section 11, *Behavior Violating University Standards* <<https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>> . 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/>> .

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the *Office of Equity and Diversity* <<http://equity.usc.edu/>> or to the *Department of Public Safety* <<http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us>> .

This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. *The Center for Women and Men* <<http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/>> provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage <<http://sarc.usc.edu>> describes reporting options and other resources.

## Support Systems for Students

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A number of USC’s schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the *American Language Institute* <<http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali>> which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. *The Office of Disability Services and Programs* <[http://sait.usc.edu/academicssupport/centerprograms/dsp/home\\_index.html](http://sait.usc.edu/academicssupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html)> provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations.

If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, *USC Emergency Information* <<http://emergency.usc.edu/>> will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.

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Confidential On-Campus Resources  
USC Center for Work and Family Life  
<http://www.usc.edu/programs/cwfl/>

## **Bibliography (books consulted while creating and updating this course)**

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Oxford University Press, New York, 2005  
ISBN 978-0-19-981170-0
- Brown, Peter                         *The Love You Make*  
Signet (McGraw-Hill), New York, 1983  
ISBN 0-415-12797-8
- Byrne, David                         *How Music Works*  
McSweeney's, San Francisco, 2012  
ISBN 978-1-938073-53-3
- Coleman, Ray                         *Lennon*  
McGraw-Hill, New York, 1984  
ISBN 0-07-011789-6
- Coleman, Ray                         *The Man Who Made the Beatles:  
An Intimate Biography of Brian Epstein*  
McGraw-Hill, New York, 1989  
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- Davies, Hunter                       *The Beatles*  
W. W. Norton & Company, New York, 1985  
ISBN 0-393-31571-1
- Davies, Hunter                       *The Beatles Lyrics*  
Little, Brown & Company, New York, 2014  
ISBN 978-0-316-2417-7 (pb)
- 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

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ISBN-13: 978-0-13-234305-3
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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
- Hebert, Brian                            *Blue Notes and Sad Chords: Color Coded Harmony in the Beatles' 27 Number 1 Hits*  
Scribe Key, 2018  
ISBN 978-0-692-10479-8 ((paperback))
- Larson, Thomas E.                      *History of Rock & Roll*  
Kendall Hunt, Dubuque, 2010.  
ISBN 987-4652-0532-2
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Harmony Books (Crown Publishers), New York, 1989  
ISBN 0-517-57066-1
- Martin, George                         *All You Need Is Ears*  
St. Martin's Press, New York, 1979  
ISBN 3-312-02044-9
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Chicago Review Press, an A Capella Book. Chicago, 2005.  
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Henry Holt & Company, New York, 1997  
ISBN 0805052496
- Norman, Philip                         *Shout! The Beatles in Their Generation*  
Simon & Shuster, New York, 1981  
ISBN 0-671-43253-2

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Rock Music in the Mirror of Romanticism*  
Oxford University Press, New York, 1981  
ISBN 0-19-503876-2
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Huber, David M. *Modern Recording Techniques*  
Howard W. Sam & Co., Indianapolis, 1987  
ISBN 0-672-22451-8
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and Yoko Ono*  
Playboy Press, New York, 1981  
ISBN 0-8722333-705-2
- Smith, Joe *Off the Record: The Oral History of Popular Music*  
Warner Publications, New York, 1988  
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William Morrow & Co., New York, 1989  
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- Spitz, Bob *The Beatles: The Biography*  
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ASIN B00852YXOY
- Stanley, Bob *Yeah! Yeah! Yeah! The Story of Pop Music from Bill  
Haley to Beyoncé*  
W. W. Norton and Co., New York, 2014  
ISBB 978-0-393-35168-2
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