

Iconic Figures of Popular Music: Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young

Spring 2019

Course no. MUSC 424

Section no. 47228

Units: 2

Time: Mondays 10:00-11:50pm

Room: MUS 319

Course instructor: Bill Biersach

Instructor's office: MUS 316

Instructor's office hours: MW 9 – 9:30 am; 1 – 2 pm

Office phone: (213) 740-7416

Instructor's email: biersach@usc.edu

Seminar: A group of advanced students studying under a professor with each doing original research and all exchanging results through reports and discussions.

The Premise

David Crosby, Stephen Stills, Graham Nash, and Neil Young—known as Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young; CSNY; and Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Sometimes Young—have been major contributors to popular music for fifty years. An argumentative and sometimes explosive assembly of intense musicians and lyricists, they have collectively and singly captivated audiences and advanced the cause of songwriting and performance among musicians and audiences alike. In this course we will look at these artists as individuals and in various combinations as they have grouped and regrouped themselves over the years. We will do so from within—David Crosby's autobiography—and without—Dave Zimmer's biography and collection of magazine interviews.

Course Goal

This course is student-intensive. By this I mean that it will be the students who will listen to the music and prepare presentations of the albums we will be considering. They will also prepare discussion points each week from the readings and ultimately decide on the essay questions that will comprise the exams.

My goal is to guide my students as they come to grips with this cache of music, but in their own time frame and on their own terms.

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 paperback or Kindle format):

Crosby, David and Gottlieb, Carl	<i>Long Time Gone: The Autobiography of David Crosby</i> Special Reissue Edition Reprinted by the authors, 2007 ISBN 0-9790489-0-7
Zimmer, Dave	<i>4 Way Street</i> Da Capo, Philadelphia, 2004 ISBN 978-0-9722591-5-6
Zimmer, Dave (text) and Diltz, Henry (photography)	<i>Crosby, Stills & Nash: The Biography</i> Da Capo, Philadelphia, 2008 ISBN 978-0-306-81615-4

Recommended, not required (available in paperback or Kindle format):

Kubernick, Harvey *Canyon of Dreams:
The Magic and the Music of Laurel Canyon*
Sterling, New York, 2009
ISBN 9781402797613

Nash, Graham *Wild Tales: A Rock and Roll Life*
Three Rivers Press, New York, 2013
ISBN 978-0-385-34756-3

Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young—Spring 2019
Schedule of Discussion Topics and Reading Assignments

WEEK	DATE	ALBUM	Dave Zimmer <i>4-Way Street</i>	David Crosby <i>Long Time Gone</i>	Dave Zimmer <i>Crosby, Stills & Nash</i>
1.	Jan. 7	Preliminaries			
2.	Jan. 14	[1] <i>The Byrds Greatest Hits</i> (1965 – 1967) David Crosby	Intro- duction	1 - 4	1
3.	Jan. 21	Holiday			
4.	Jan. 28	[2] <i>Best of Buffalo Springfield</i> (1966-1968) Stephen Stills, Neil Young	—	—	2
	Jan. 29	Last day to drop w/o “W,” or to change letter grade to P/NP, etc.			
5.	Feb. 4	[3] <i>The Hollies Greatest Hits</i> (1963-1968) Graham Nash	—	—	3
6.	Feb. 11	FIRST MIDTERM			
7.	Feb. 18	Holiday	—	—	—
	Feb. 22	Last day to change P/NP to a letter grade			
8.	Feb. 25	[4] <i>Crosby, Stills and Nash</i> (1969) Crosby, Stills and Nash	1 – 2	5	4
9.	Mar. 4	[1] <i>Déjà Vu</i>	3 – 9	6	5 – 6

		(1970) CSN&Y			
10.	Mar. 11	SPRING BREAK			
11.	Mar. 18	[2] If I Could Only Remember My Name (Recorded 1968, released 1971) David Crosby	11- 13	7 – 8	10 – 12
		[3] Stephen Stills (1971) Stephen Stills			
12.	Mar. 25	[4] Songs for Beginners (1970) Graham Nash	15	—	7 – 9
		[1] After the Gold Rush (1970) Neil Young			
13.	Apr. 1	SECOND MIDTERM			
	Apr. 5	Last day to drop with a “W.”			
14.	Apr. 8	[2] Daylight Again (1982) Crosby, Stills and Nash	14 – 15	9 – 12	13 - 15
15.	Apr. 15	[3] American Dream (1988) CSN&Y	16 – 22	9 – 12	16 - 17
16.	Apr. 22	[4] Looking Forward (1999) CSN&Y	23 – 31	—	18
17.	Apr. 29	STOP			
18.	May 6	FINAL EXAMINATION	MONDAY 8:00 – 9:00 AM		OUCH!

Devices

The professor requests that cell phones, iPads, laptop computers, and all communications devices will not be used during class, the exception being when you are presenting an album with your group.

Statement of 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 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

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/academic-support/center-programs/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.

Bibliography (books consulted while creating this course)

- Brackett, David *The Pop, Rock, and Soul Reader (Third Edition)*
Oxford University Press, New York, 2005
ISBN 978-0-19-981170-0
- Byrne, David *How Music Works*
McSweeney's, San Francisco, 2012
ISBN 978-1-938073-53-3
- Charlon, Katherine *Rock Music Styles: A History*
Sixth Edition
New York, McGraw Hill, 2011
ISBN: 978-0078025181
- Clarke, Donald
(editor) *The Penguin Encyclopedia of Popular Music*
Viking Press, New York, 1989
ISBN 0-670-80349-9
- Clifford, Mike *The Harmony Illustrated Encyclopedia of Rock*
Harmony Books, New York, 1988
ISBN 0-517-57154-1
- Covach, John and
Flory, Andrew *What's That Sound? An Introduction to Rock and
It's History (Third edition), Norton & Company,*
New York, 2012
ISBN-13: 978-0-393-91204-3
- Crosby, David and
Gottlieb, Carl *Long Time Gone: The Autobiography of David Crosby*
Dell Publishers, New York, 1990
ISBN 0-440-50270-5
- Crosby, David and
Gottlieb, Carl *Long Time Gone: The Autobiography of David Crosby*
Special Reissue Edition
Reprinted by the authors, 2007
ISBN 0-9790489-0-7
- Denselow, Robin *When the Music's Over: The Story of Political Pop*
Faber & Faber, Boston, 1989
ISBN 0-571-15380-1
- Editors of *Billboard* *Rock Movers and Shakers*
New York, Billboard Publications, 1989
ISBN: 978-0823076093

- Editors of *Rolling Stone* *The Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll*
New York, Rolling Stone Press, 2001
ISBN: 978-0743201209
- 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
- Kubernick, Harvey *Canyon of Dreams:*
The Magic and the Music of Laurel Canyon
Sterling, New York, 2009
ISBN 978-1-4027-9761-3
- Lazell, Barry
(editor) *Rock Movers and Shakers*
Billboard Publications, New York, 1989
ISBN 0-8230-7608-3
- Leary, Timothy *The Politics of Ecstasy*
Ronin Publishing, Berkeley, 1990
ISBN 0-914171-33-X
- Marcus, Greil *Mystery Train:*
Images of America in Rock 'n' Roll Times
Obelisk (Dutton), New York, 1975
ISBN 0-525-48556-2
- Nash, Graham *Wild Tales: A Rock and Roll Life*
Three Rivers Press, New York, 2013
ISBN 978-0-385-34756-3
- 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

- Pichaske, David *A Generation in Motion:
Popular Music and the Culture of the Sixties*
Ellis Press, Peoria, 1989
ISBN 0-944024-16-5
- 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
- Smith, Joe *Off the Record:
The Oral History of Popular Music*
Warner Publications, New York, 1988
ISBN 0-446-51232-X
- Spitz, Bob *Barefoot in Babylon:
The Creation of the Woodstock Music Festival*
Norton, New York, 1989
ISBN 0-393-30644-5
- Stambler, Irwin *The Encyclopedia of Pop, Rock and Soul*
St. Martin's Press, New York, 1989
ISBN 0-312-04310-4
- 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
- Young, Neil *Waging Heavy Peace: A Hippie Dream*
Blue Rider Press, Penguin Group, London, 2012
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Da Capo, Philadelphia, 2004
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