

The Beatles: Their Music and Their Times

Fall 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

Teaching assistants:

Adam Ratner aratner@usc.edu

Danny Leo dleo1225@gmail.com

Introduction and Purpose

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

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

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 average your three scores and determine your final grade based on university guidelines.

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

Texts

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
Schedule of Lecture Topics**

Fall 2019

Week	Lecture MONDAY	Discussion WEDNESDAY	Topic
1.	Aug. 26	Aug. 28	Preliminaries
2.	Sept. 2 [Holiday]	Sept. 4	Early Years
3.	Sept. 9 Sept. 13	Sept. 11	Please Please Me Last day to drop or add, or to change letter grade to P/NP, etc.
4.	Sept. 16	Sept. 18	<i>With the Beatles</i>
5.	Sept. 23	Sept. 25	<i>A Hard Day's Night</i>
6.	Sept. 30 1st Midterm Exam	Oct. 2	<i>Beatles for Sale</i>
7.	Oct. 7 Oct. 11	Oct. 9	<i>Help!</i> Last day to drop w/o "W," or to change P/NP into a letter grade
8.	Oct. 14	Oct. 16	<i>Rubber Soul</i>
9.	Oct. 21	Oct. 23	<i>Revolver</i>
10.	Oct. 28	Oct. 30 2nd Midterm Exam	<i>"Strawberry Fields/Penny Lane"</i>
11.	Nov. 4	Nov. 6	<i>Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band</i>
12.	Nov. 11 Nov. 15	Nov. 13	<i>Magical Mystery Tour/Yellow Submarine</i> Last day to drop with "W"
13.	Nov. 18	Nov. 20	<i>The Beatles</i>
14.	Nov. 25	Nov. 27 [Holiday]	<i>The Beatles/Get Back</i>
15.	Dec. 2	Dec. 4	<i>Abbey Road</i>
16.	Dec. 11	FINAL EXAMINATION, Wednesday, 4:30 – 6:30 pm	

Devices - Texting

Studies show that the use of cell phones, ipads, 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 asked to sit near the front of the room.

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/academicssupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html.

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 and updating this course)

- | | |
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| Brown, Peter | <i>The Love You Make</i>
Signet (McGraw-Hill), New York, 1983
ISBN 0-415-12797-8 |
| Byrne, David | <i>How Music Works</i>
McSweeney's, San Francisco, 2012
ISBN 978-1-938073-53-3 |
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ISBN: 978-1-259-92257-2 |
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