



The Beatles and The Creative Process Undergraduate Course Information Guide

Course Number: CCA 185, 2 or 4 credits, 10 Weeks

Cross listed Course Number: SNC 185, 4 credits, 10 Weeks

Delivery Formats: Online Async

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Course Description

The Beatles are significant in many ways: they were an unprecedented show business phenomenon; they were leaders of Sixties cultural rebellion; and they stand, for many, as a signal instance of popular entertainment attaining the status of high art. This course will examine the musical craftsmanship of the Beatles, focusing on their work as songwriters and record makers. Recent audio and print releases documenting the group's performing and recording history provide a unique and detailed glimpse of the Beatles' creative process. We will utilize these materials to closely trace the development of the group's work while using other resources to place it in a larger historical and cultural context. The goal is to shed critical light on this recent chapter in cultural history. That discussion will, in turn, highlight questions about creativity in a modern context where commerce vies with art, technology redefines performance and an emerging global village culture transforms concepts of originality and tradition.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, you will be able to:

- The course focus on songcraft and record making as art forms as well as various approaches to interpreting these forms.
- The course focus on such artworks in relation to 60s-era trends in spirituality and philosophy.
- The course focus on analyzing the Beatles' multifaceted creative process.

Learning Outcomes for SNC 185 Liberal Studies Program/Arts and Literature Domain

- Students will be able to explain, in well-written prose, what a work of art is about and/or how it was produced (i.e., they should be able to explain the content of that work and/or its methodology of production).
- Students will be able to comment on the relationship between form and content in a work.
- Students will be able to assess the formal aspects of their subject and put those qualities into words using, when appropriate, specialized vocabulary employed in class and readings.
- Students will be able to contextualize a work of art. They will be able to do so with respect to other works of art in terms of defining its place within a broader style or genre. They will also be able to contextualize a work of art in terms of contemporaneous aesthetic, social or political concerns, discussing how these might shape the work's reception and how that reception might differ amongst various people and historical periods.

Learning Strategies and Resources

Some learning activities, assignments and deadlines will vary depending on the delivery format of the course and may differ slightly from what is presented in this document.

A variety of learning strategies will be employed, including listening sessions; classroom lectures and discussions; print readings; journals of the readings; group exercises; and short papers.

Required Readings

Books and learning materials for DePaul courses are available at the DePaul bookstore, at <http://depaul-loop.bncollege.com>, or through alternative sources. However, there are no required books for this course.

All the readings for the course are available on Electronic Reserve, at the [DePaul Library](#). Login to Ares Course Reserves and select the course. Log in using your Campus Connect User ID and password. You will then get a page listing the courses in which you're enrolled that have readings posted in Ares. Click on the title of this course and the list of our electronic reserve readings will be displayed.

Sound Recordings:

The Beatles released 12 albums on (or through) their UK label, EMI / Parlophone and these are listed below. Having access to all 12 is ideal. For this course, you are required to purchase the titles that appear in bold, as well as the singles collection, Past Masters.

Please Please Me (1963)
With the Beatles (1963)

A Hard Day's Night (1964)
Beatles For Sale (1964)
Help! (1965)
Rubber Soul (1965)
Revolver (1966)
Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band (1967)
Magical Mystery Tour (1967)
The Beatles [aka the White Album] (1968)
Abbey Road (1969)
Let It Be (1970)

All 12 of these albums have recently been remastered for CD. The CDs are widely available from retail outlets, both brick-and-mortar and online. In addition, all the albums are available for digital download from iTunes. Also, the albums have recently become available from streaming services such as Spotify.

Learning Deliverables

The deliverables or evidences of learning for which you will be graded are as follows:

- Class participation on campus or through discussion forum for Online Async.
- Journal entries, 1.0 to 1.5 pages related to the list of readings from that week
- Short Papers, 5-7 pages long, (Midterm & Final)
- Two Quizzes (Midterm & Final)

Note: students registered for just one SCPS competence (i.e., 2 credit hours) are only required to submit one Quiz and one Short paper by the end of the course.

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Assessment of Student Learning

Distribution of Grade Points

Students taking the course for 4 credit hours get the following points.

Graded Assignments	Percentage of Final Grade
Discussions (10 x 3 pts)	30 Points
Journal Entries (7 x 3 pts)	21 Points
Quizzes (2 x 9 pts)	18 Points
Short Paper (Midterm)	30 Points
Short paper (Final)	30 Points

Students taking the course for 2 credit hours get the following points.

Graded Assignments	Percentage of Final Grade
Discussions (10 x 3 pts)	30 Points
Journal Entries (7 x 3 pts)	21 Points
Quizzes (1 x 9 pts)	9 Points
Short Paper (Midterm or Final)	30 Points

Grading Scale

A = 95 to 100	A- = 91 to 94	B+ = 88 to 90
B = 85 to 87	B- = 81 to 84	C+ = 77 to 80
C = 73 to 76	C- = 69 to 72	D+ = 65 to 68
D = 61 to 64	F = 60 or below	INC

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Course Schedule

Week or Module Title or Theme	Readings / Learning Activities	Graded Assignments
Week 1, Module 1: Come Together: Why the Beatles Are A Big Deal	Module 1 Introduction & Overview Frith, "Popular Music 1950-1980" Martin, "All You Need is Ears" Dormen & Eddidin, "Original Spin"	Discussion posts Journal entry

	<p><u>Audio</u></p> <p>"A Day in the Life" from Sgt.Pepper</p> <p><u>Video</u></p> <p>Short video clips</p>	
<p>Week 2, Module 2: The Fifties, Race & Rock</p>	<p>Module 2 Introduction & Overview</p> <p>Miles, "Being Born in Liverpool Carries with it Certain Responsibilities"</p> <p>Martin, "There, beneath the blue suburban skies. . ."</p> <p>Hertsgaard, "'Mach Schau!': The Hamburg – Liverpool Apprenticeship"</p> <p><u>Audio</u></p> <p>"Love Me Do" & "P.S. I Love You" from the Please Scheu Me album; "Long Tall Sally" from Past Masters Disc 1</p> <p><u>Video</u> - Short video clips</p>	<p>Discussion posts</p> <p>Journal entry</p>
<p>Week 3, Module 3: Songcraft, Convention & Technology</p>	<p>Module 3 Introduction & Overview</p> <p>Hertsgaard, "Starting A Reputation (Please Please Me)"</p> <p>MacDonald, "John and Paul: the Start of a Partnership"</p> <p>MacDonald , "The People's Music"</p> <p><u>Audio</u></p> <p>Please Please Me album; "She Loves You", "I Want to Hold Your Hand", "Slow Down" & "Matchbox" from Past Masters Disc 1</p> <p><u>Video</u> - Course Author video clips</p>	<p>Discussion posts</p> <p>Journal entry</p>
<p>Week 4, Module 4:</p>	<p>Module 4 Introduction & Overview</p>	<p>Discussion posts</p>

Mania, Spectacle, Sociology	<p>Sloan, "You Say You Want A Revolution"</p> <p>Ehrenreich et al, "Beatlemania: A sexually defiant consumer subculture?"</p> <p>Tompkins, "I Want to Hold Your Hand"</p> <p>Ebert, "A Hard Day's Night"</p> <p><u>Audio</u></p> <p>A Hard Day's Night (album)</p> <p>"I Feel Fine" & She's A Woman" from Past Masters Disc 1</p> <p><u>Video</u></p> <p>A Hard Day's Night, Ed Sullivan Show (two songs)</p>	<p>Journal entry</p>
Week 5, Module 5: From Pop To Art	<p>Module 5 Introduction & Overview</p> <p>Hertsgaard, "We All Want to Change the World: Drugs, Politics and Spirituality"</p> <p>Boden, "Creativity in a Nutshell" (pp. 1-5)</p> <p>Campbell, "From Romance to Romanticism: the Beatles 1964-1970"</p> <p>Whiteley, "Love, love, love: Representations of Gender and Sexuality in Selected Songs by the Beatles"</p> <p><u>Audio</u></p> <p><u>A Hard Day's Night (album)</u></p> <p><u>"I Feel Fine" & She's A Woman" from Past Masters Disc 1</u></p> <p><u>Video</u></p> <p>A Hard Day's Night, Ed Sullivan Show (two songs)</p>	<p>Discussion posts</p> <p>Journal entry</p>
Week 6, Module 6:	<p>Module 6 Introduction and Overview</p>	<p>Discussion posts</p>

<p>Psychedelia, Spirituality & the Global Village</p>	<p>Newman, "Hunting Tigahs Out in Indiah"</p> <p>MacDonald, Excerpts (on "Tomorrow Never Knows" & "Eleanor Rigby") from Revolution in the Head, pp. 164- 170; 180-181</p> <p>Emerick, "Innovation and Invention: the Making of Revolver"</p> <p><u>Audio</u></p> <p>Revolver album; also, "Paperback Writer" & "Rain" from Past Masters Disc 2</p> <p>Sound files embedded in Module 6 Introduction & Overview</p> <p><u>Video</u></p> <p>Short video clips</p>	<p>Journal entry</p>
<p>Week 7, Module 7: Sgt Pepper as (Counter) Cultural Moment</p>	<p>Module 7 Introduction & Overview</p> <p>MacDonald, Excerpts from Revolution in the Head (on Sgt. Pepper), pp. 188-220</p> <p>Stevens, Jay, Excerpts from Storming Heaven: LSD and the American Dream, pp. 31-43; 44-46; 47-57</p> <p>MacIntyre, "The Gospel of Lovely Rita"</p> <p>Kocot, "The Indian Beatle(s): From 'Norwegian Wood' to 'The Hare Krishna Mantra'"</p> <p><u>Audio</u></p> <p>Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band album; also, "Penny Lane", "Strawberry Fields Forever" and "All You Need Is Love" from Magical Mystery Tour album</p> <p><u>Video</u></p> <p>It Was Twenty Years Ago Today</p>	<p>Discussion posts</p> <p>Journal entry</p>

<p>Week 8, Module 8: The Sgt Pepper Debate: Transcendent Masterpiece or Toy Balloon?</p>	<p>Module 8 Introduction & Overview</p> <p>Shoales, "Rock Music Today"</p> <p>Goldstein, "We Still Need the Beatles, but..."</p> <p>Martin, "Record Production"</p> <p>Keightley, "Reconsidering rock", pp.131-142</p> <p><u>Audio</u></p> <p>Magical Mystery Tour album</p> <p><u>Video</u></p> <p>Short video clips</p>	<p>Discussion posts</p>
<p>Week 9, Module 9: "Random," Rishikesh, Revolution</p>	<p>Module 9 Introduction & Overview</p> <p>Miles, "Avant-Garde London"</p> <p>Everett, Excerpt on Yoko Ono</p> <p>MacDonald, Excerpts</p> <p>from Revolution in the Head, pp. 232- 236 (on "I Am the Walrus")</p> <p><u>Audio</u></p> <p>The Beatles (aka the White Album); also, "Hey Jude", "Revolution", "Lady Madonna", "The Inner Light" and "Across the Universe" from Past Masters Disc 2</p> <p><u>Video</u> Short video clips</p>	<p>Discussion posts</p> <p>Journal entry</p>
<p>Week 10, Module 10:</p>	<p>Module 10 Introduction & Overview</p> <p>MacDonald, Excerpts from Revolution in the Head, 308-309; 314-316</p> <p>Smith, "Following the Genius with Four Heads: Why I Became A Composer"</p> <p>Frontani, "The Beatles' Idealized Past," pp.</p>	<p>Discussion posts</p> <p>Journal entry</p>

	224-236 <u>Audio</u> Abbey Road album; also, "Get Back", "Don't Let Me Down", "Let It Be" & "You Know My Name, Look Up the Number" from Past Masters Disc 1 <u>Video</u> Short video clips	
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Course Policies

For access to all SCPS and DePaul University academic policies, refer to the following links:

[SCPS Student Resources Website](#)

[DePaul Student Handbook](#)

The [D2L Course Website](#) for this course.

Course Syllabus

The official syllabus for this course that includes course dates, instructor information and quarter specific details will be provided by the course instructor by the start of the course and available on the course D2L website.

Course Registration

To find out when this course will be offered next, you can go to the [SCPS Registration website](#) for details on how to register for the course.

For information on how this course can apply to your program, contact your academic advisor.

School of Continuing and Professional Studies

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This document was updated 7-13-23.

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