

# MUS 7D: CONTEMPORARY MUSICAL STYLES: THE BEATLES IN THE CULTURE OF POPULAR MUSIC

## Foothill College Course Outline of Record

Heading	Value
Units:	4
Hours:	4 lecture, 1 laboratory per week (60 total per quarter)
Degree & Credit Status:	Degree-Applicable Credit Course
Foothill GE:	Area I: Humanities
Transferable:	CSU/UC
Grade Type:	Letter Grade (Request for Pass/No Pass)
Repeatability:	Not Repeatable

## Student Learning Outcomes

- A successful student will recognize the significant effects that politics, social and cultural diversity, and the creative arts had on the music of the Beatles.
- A successful student will discriminately select examples of their songs which relate to the classical musical tradition as well as to other styles.
- To have students understand what is meant by the term "Progressive Rock", when it originated, and what specific Beatles songs are said to be part of it.

## Description

Continuation of jazz, popular, and rock music with a focus on the Beatles. Includes prominent albums and songs associated with the band's evolution and stature, and their synthesis of a wide variety of popular and non popular musical styles. Identifies the significant effects that Hindu religious beliefs, social and cultural diversity, and the language arts had on their music. Analyzes the sociological impact the Beatles' statements had on non-musical matters, such as politics, drugs, religion, etc. Examines the influences of pop music on the Beatles' early style as well as the group's own influence on music and pop culture in general. A variety of media consisting of videos, recordings, lecture, and live performance will be used.

## Course Objectives

The student will be able to:

- Identify the different musical stages of the Beatles from 1962-1970.
- Understand these styles to enrich his or her musical enjoyment.
- Identify the significant effects that Hindu religious beliefs, social and cultural diversity, and the language arts had on their music.
- Show how aspects of contemporary music relate to the music of the Beatles.
- Analyze both recorded and live examples of popular music performance.
- Select discriminately examples of their songs that relate to the classical musical tradition as well as to other styles.

- Analyze and describe the sociological impact the Beatles' statements had on non-musical matters, such as politics, drugs, religion, etc.
- Describe and analyze the kinetic quality of the Beatles' live performances and its effect on audiences.
- Prepare an oral or written presentation on some aspect of the Beatles' career that has had a significant impact on contemporary popular culture.

## Course Content

- The elements of music
  - Pitch, rhythm, dynamics, form, style
- The sources of rock
  - New Orleans, African influence, European influence, Caribbean influence
- Listening skill development
  - Perception of music in time
- Musical influences on the Beatles
  - Jazz
  - British Music Hall tradition
  - Blues
  - Bob Dylan and the American folk music tradition
  - Rhythm and Blues
  - Skiffle
  - American Rockabilly
  - Psychedelic Rock
  - Mainstream Avante-garde: Stockhausen, Boulez, Berio
  - Hindu religious beliefs: musical instruments and spiritual significance
- Student presentations
- The Beatles' influence on contemporary music: Grunge, Peter Gabriel, Radiohead, etc.

## Lab Content

Laboratory Exercises: Weekly lab exercises consisting of group activities such as listening, video critique, analysis of lyrics, and distinguishing different instruments outside of rock and roll used in Beatles' songs. These cover and supplement assigned reading and lecture topics.

## Special Facilities and/or Equipment

- Access to listening facilities including a piano. Classroom must be equipped with the latest stereo sound record/playback unit, CD player, and multi-media equipment.
- When taught via Foothill Global Access: on-going access to computer with java-script enabled Internet browsing software, media plug-ins, and relevant computer applications.

## Method(s) of Evaluation

- One mid-term examination
- Several written assignments involving student creativity
- A student presentation of 20 minutes on some aspect of the Beatles, or composition
- A final examination

## Method(s) of Instruction

During periods of instruction the student will be:

- listening to selected representative Beatles albums and reading lecture information.
- completing written assignments and laboratory exercises demonstrating listening skills.
- receiving feedback on all assignments and group listening work.

## **Representative Text(s) and Other Materials**

Kozinn, Alan. The Beatles: From the Cavern to the Rooftop. London: Phaidon Inc. Ltd. 2010.

Although this text is older than the suggested "5 years or newer" standard, it remains a seminal text in this area of study.

## **Types and/or Examples of Required Reading, Writing, and Outside of Class Assignments**

A. Reading Assignments: Weekly reading assignments from text, online curriculum, lab manual, and outside sources ranging from 40 to 60 pages per week.

B. Lecture: Weekly lecture covering subject matter from text assignment with extended topic information.

## **Discipline(s)**

Music