# The Beatles: An Introduction

**MU106C.002, Spring 2018**  
**Mondays & Wednesdays, 12:20-1:40, Zankel 117 (ELM)**

## Schedule

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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| 22/1  | Class introduction: Urban Ethnomusicology  
Meet the Beatles  
Postwar Britain, John Lennon, the Quarry Men, Paul McCartney, & George Harrison  
First Attempts: Percy Phillips, “That’ll Be the Day,” & “In Spite of All the Danger” |
| 24/1  | Transformations, 1958-1959 Crisis, & Hamburg  
Johnny and the Moondogs, Stu Sutcliffe, & Allan Williams  
Long John and the Silver Beetles: “Hallelujah, I Just Love Her So” & “You’ll Be Mine”  
Hamburg, Pete Best, & the Beatles: “My Bonnie” & “Cry for a Shadow” |
| 29/1  | Brian Epstein & Decca  
“Searchin’,” “Three Cool Cats,” “Like Dreamers Do,” & “Hello Little Girl”  
Epstein in London |
| 31/1  | George Martin & EMI  
| 3/2   | **Response Essay 1.** Write a short (200-word) response essay on the biographical or musical background of the Beatles (1940-1962) as discussed by one or more reliable sources. |
| 5/2   | **Quiz 1**  
*Please Please Me*  
“Please Please Me” & “Ask Me Why,”  
Publishing: Dick James, *Thank Your Lucky Stars*, & Promotion  
Recording *Please Please Me* (11 February 1963): “I Saw Her Standing There,” “Do You Want to Know a Secret?,” “Misery,” & “Twist and Shout” |
| 7/2   | **Beatlemania**  
Beatle identity and marketing/promotion |
| 12/2  | **With the Beatles**  
Motown, “You Really Got a Hold on Me,” “Money (That’s What I Want),” “She’s Got the Devil in Her Heart,” “Please Mr. Postman,” & “Till There Was You” |
| 14/2  | “It Won’t Be Long,” “All My Loving,” “All I’ve Got to Do,” “I Wanna Be Your Man,” & “Don’t Bother Me.”  
New technology “I Want to Hold Your Hand” & “This Boy,” Fall 1963 |

29 March 2018
Response Essay 2. Write a short (200-word) response essay on the rise of the Beatles in Britain (1962-63) as discussed by one or more reliable sources.

Quiz 2
A Hard Day’s Night

Marketing the Beatles

Summer of ‘64
Touring, Composing and Planning: “I Don’t Want to Spoil the Party,” “No Reply,” “Eight Days a Week,” “She’s a Woman,” & “I Feel Fine”

American and British Releases

Help!
Business & Songwriting (Winter-Spring ‘65)

Spring Releases

Response Essay 3. Write a short (200-word) response essay on the Beatles and their music (1964-1965) as discussed by one or more reliable sources.

Quiz 3
Business & Culture (Spring 1965)
“Help!,” “I’ve Just Seen a Face,” “I’m Down,” “Yesterday,” & “It’s Only Love”

Summer releases

Rubber Soul: Beatlemania Peaks (October 1965)

Members of the British Empire

Spring Break

Revolver
Winter Break: Memphis, Engineering (Geoff Emerick, Ken Townsend, & Artificial Double Tracking), & Jesus
“Tomorrow Never Knows,” “Got to Get You into My Life,” “Love You To,” “Paperback Writer,” “Rain,” & “Taxman”
16 21/3 “I’m Only Sleeping,” “Eleanor Rigby,” “For No One,” “Yellow Submarine,” “Here, There, and Everywhere,” & “She Said, She Said”

Revolver: Release and Promotion

17 26/3 Quiz 4
Sergeant Pepper’s Mystery Tour: Rethinking the Beatles
“Strawberry Fields Forever,” “When I’m Sixty-four,” “Penny Lane,” & “A Day in the Life”
Release and Reactions

18 28/3 Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band
“Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band,” “Good Morning, Good Morning,” “Fixing a Hole,”
“Being for the Benefit of Mr. Kite,” “Lovely Rita,” & “Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds.”

30/3 Response Essay 4. Write a short (200-word) response essay on the Beatles and their music (1965-1967) as discussed by one or more reliable sources.

Sgt. Pepper Release and Reception
“Baby You’re a Rich Man” & “All You Need Is Love”

20 4/4 Magical Mystery Tour
“Magical Mystery Tour”
August 1967 (Maharishi Mahesh Yogi & Brian Epstein)
“I Am the Walrus,” “Hello Goodbye,” “The Inner Light,” “Lady Madonna,” & “Across the Universe”

21 9/4 Quiz 5
Revolution

22 11/4 Summer of 1968: EMI 8-track (consequences and opportunities)
“Hey Jude,” “Sexy Sadie,” “Yer Blues,” “While My Guitar Gently Weeps,” & “Helter Skelter”

13/4 Response Essay 5. Write a short (200-word) response essay on the Beatles and their music (1967-1968) as discussed by one or more reliable sources.

23 16/4 “Back in the USSR,” “Dear Prudence,” “Glass Onion,” “Happiness Is a Warm Gun,” & “Julia”
Release (Summer of 1968): Yellow Submarine (film), The Beatles, & Yellow Submarine (album).

24 18/4 Get Back (1969)
Release and Contexts
Abbey Road
“(I Want You) She’s So Heavy,” “Oh Darling,” & “Something”
Medley: “You Never Give Me Your Money,” “Golden Slumbers” / “Carry That Weight,” “Sun King” / “Mean Mr. Mustard,” & “Polythene Pam” / “She Came in through the Bathroom Window”

Here Comes the Sun,” “Maxwell’s Silver Hammer,” “Come Together,” “The End,” & “Because” Dissolution
What did we learn about the Beatles? What did we learn from the Beatles?

Quiz 6 & Evaluations

Final Exam

Requirements

Quizzes
The course is divided into six segments, each concluding with a quiz. Each quiz has two parts. The first part will have four one-minute sample recordings with questions asking you to identify the songwriter, the singer, the producer, etc., as well as the year of the recording. The second part will ask you similar questions, but without recordings and covering the people, places, and things we discuss in class. Each quiz will be graded out of 50 points and will be averaged together for 50% of your total grade.

Response Essays
Five times during the semester, you will write a short (200-word) response essay on a specific topic as discussed by one or more reliable sources. For the purposes of this essay, a “reliable” source is one that (a) has editorial oversight and (b) offers verifiable information rather than opinion. At the end of each essay, list your sources. Each response essay will be graded out of 30 points and will be averaged for 30% of your total grade.

Final Exam
The final exam (date to be determined by the Registrar) will consist of questions drawn from the six quizzes and cover the entire semester. (Note: correct your quizzes in class and keep them.) If after the last class (30 April) your class grade is B+ or better, you are excused from the final exam. (Collect your copy of quiz 6 from the bin outside my office door: Zankel 209.) If you are required to take the final exam, it is worth 20% of your final grade.