

WRITING ABOUT MUSIC: BRITISH ROCK MUSIC OF THE 1960'S (MUS 121)

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Supplies

Required books:

1. William Strunk Jr. and E. B. White. *The Elements of Style*. 4th Edition.
2. Townshend, Pete. *Who I Am*. 2012. (HarperCollins). ISBN: 978-0062127242.
(Physical copy or audio book is acceptable for this book).

There are four required handouts available online in the "Course Documents" section of the class's BlackBoard page.

All additional required readings and listening assignments will be made available to the students by the instructor.

Other:

Students need to have a Spotify app on their computer (it can be the free version).

Grading

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

- Online discussion participation and small writing assignments: 25%
- Essay #1: 15%
- Essay #2: 15%
- Essay #3: 20%
- Essay #4: 25%

Essays and writings will cover all aspects of class material (Lectures, Films, Listening, etc.).
See "Material Covered," below, for more details.

Final letter grades are assigned according to the following scale
(see Undergraduate Handbook, pg. 44):

A+ = 97-100	A = 93-96	A- = 90-92
B+ = 87-89	B = 83-86	B- = 80-82
C+ = 77-79	C = 73-76	C- = 70-72
D+ = 67-69	D = 63-66	D- = 60-62
F = 0-59	WF I	W

EXAMPLE:

Online discussion participation and small writing assignments: 89

Essay #1: 82

Essay #2: 85

Essay #3: 89

Essay #4: 94

FINAL GRADE: $(89 \cdot .25) + (82 \cdot .15) + (85 \cdot .15) + (89 \cdot .2) + (94 \cdot .25) =$
 $(22.25) + (12.3) + (12.75) + (17.8) + (23.5) =$
88.6 = B+

Material Covered

This course is intended as an introductory overview of the popular musical legacy of 1960's Britain. We will examine the seminal works of such artists as The Beatles, The Who, The Kinks, The Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, The Yardbirds, Cream, Pink Floyd, and Small Faces, among others, and place their work within larger historical and social contexts.

Course material is presented in four forms: lectures (sometimes with handouts), class discussion, listening and reading assignments, and musical demonstrations. We will be listening to many recordings in class and watching a number of video presentations. You are responsible for all material, regardless of the medium of presentation. It is of utmost importance that you bring note paper to class and *take notes*. IMPORTANT: as fun as watching videos and listening to recordings is, you are responsible for the material!

As noted above, in addition to four essays (one each week), there will be regular in-class written work and critiquing. All writing assignments are based upon the class material. Specific additional information about each assignment, including due dates, format, content, and all other parameters, will be given to the students in a timely manner.

"Attendance"

There is a tremendous amount of material covered in the course. Students are expected to log into BlackBoard daily, keep up with the material, and participate in the daily online discussions. Most, *but not all*, of the class material (lectures, audio, video, etc.) will be kept online, once made available to the students, for the remainder of the semester.

Academic Honesty

Academic Dishonesty takes places in many forms, from cheating on exams to plagiarism. The full university statement on Academic Dishonesty, *including the penalties for such behavior*, can be found at: <http://web.cuny.edu/academics/info-central/policies.html>.

Any academic dishonesty will be reported to administrative authorities *immediately* and action recommended. (See Undergraduate handout, pg. 48).

Accessibility

All video lectures will include subtitles. *All* students are strongly encouraged to use this feature.

Technology Policy

This course, by its nature, employs an unusually high quantity of audio and video recordings. These include commercially available products, public-domain works, and some proprietary works (including the professor's recorded lectures and written commentaries). Students are expected to follow the laws with respect to all of the material. (E.g., do not illegally download class material).

If the student *ever* has any technical problems (accessing a file, non-working audio or video, etc.) it is their responsibility to inform the instructor via email immediately.

Students are *strongly* encouraged to enter my email address and the class open forum address into their email address book and/or on their "safe list." This is particularly true of those with AOL accounts. Notifications from ISPs that legitimate emails sent from me or the class open forum have been tagged as spam will result in the removal of the student's address from the open forum list. This could result in missing important class announcements, for which I take no responsibility.

Student Information / Contract

A student information survey is given electronically on the first day of class. This collects the following information for the professor: (1) student's name, (2) preferred name, if applicable, (3) the student's preferred email address, (4) website, if applicable, (5) major, (6) major teacher (applicable for music majors only), (7) any other additional information the student wishes to communicate to the professor.

Additionally, this course requires the student to electronically sign an Adult Content Advisory (ACA) warning / Course Description Acknowledgement as a condition of taking the class. The advisory is on the next page of this course description; the acknowledgement is on the student information survey.

Signing the advisory acknowledges that the student has read and understood the ACA for the course and that they understand that they are taking this course having been advised that if they are easily offended by adult language that they should *not* take the course.

Further, by signing the ACA, the student acknowledges that they have read and understood the course description in full.

There is also an option on the survey for a student to note that, having read the ACA, they do NOT wish to take the course.

DATES

Jun 4 (M)	Jun 11 (M)	Jun 18 (M)	Jun 25 (M)
Jun 5 (T)	Jun 12 (T)	Jun 19 (T)	Jun 26 (T)
Jun 6 (W)	Jun 13 (W)	Jun 20 (W)	Jun 27 (W) LAST CLASS
Jun 7 (Th)	Jun 14 (Th)	Jun 21 (Th)	

Wed	Jun 6	Brainstorming for essay #1 (Compare/Contrast)
Thur	Jun 7	Outline for essay #1
Fri	Jun 8	Essay #1 Due
Fri	Jun 15	Essay #2 (Teenagers) Due
Fri	Jun 22	Essay #3 (LPs/Singles; semi-research) Due
Wed	Jun 27	Essay #4 (<i>Who I Am</i> Review) Due

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ADULT CONTENT ADVISORY

In the study of British Rock Music of the 1960s, some material is definitely of an "adult" nature. Specifically, some interviews (and, indeed, some songs) contain cursing or language with sexual innuendo. These are not of a gratuitous or titillating nature, but are generally used to further the narrative of the work. The same would be true, for example, in a film course on the works of Quentin Tarantino. Indeed, in some works (for example, The Who's "Pictures of Lily," or The Beatles' "Happiness is a Warm Gun") they are an integral part of the composition.

In interviews the musicians occasionally pepper their responses with curses. These almost always take the form of an intensifier, sometimes as a gerund-formed verb acting as an intensifying adjective (e.g., according to Pete Townshend, John Entwistle's playing style did not change the bass guitar; it changed the "f-ing instrument").

We will be listening to a great deal of music and will be watching or listening to several interviews. Those easily offended by the type of language described above are best advised not to take the course.