

Course Title: “The Fab Four and the Stones: How America surrendered to the advance guard of the British Invasion, weaponized by our own roots music.”

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What often gets lost in any discussion or course about the Beatles and the Rolling Stones is the simplest of facts; these were two of the greatest *rock and roll bands of all time*. This course will take a hard look at how two groups of young British musicians, infatuated with America, reached deep into arguably our greatest cultural legacy of the 20th century--popular music-- to achieve fame and fortune.

In this course, we will explore how these bands were influenced heavily by the Delta Blues of the 1930's and the electric Chicago blues of the 1940's-1950's; the folk and country music out of Nashville in the same period; the classic R&B that came out of New York and LA; the early rock and roll, mainly out of New Orleans; rockabilly that came blazing out of Memphis in the late 1950's, the magic that was Motown, and most importantly, the poetry and guitar of Chuck Berry.

For these two historic *rock and roll* bands—and I use that adjective in the truest sense--took our prized legacy of popular music and made music that changed the world. In 1964 the Beatles and Stones came, saw and conquered. They took our music and shoved it back in our faces, showing us how it should be done and made millions doing it. This course will examine how American roots music was the launching pad for two of the greatest bands of all time, and the uncanny way in which their careers paralleled each other. We will examine six phases in the history of each band, and in the spirit of learning we'll do some contrasting and comparing. The class will look at that period when both bands were active, 1962-1969. And we will discuss why one band lasted 9 years—while the other band has been out there doing it for *60 years!*

Course Syllabus:

The following materials are suggested---*not required*--for this class:

Reading: This reading is not week-specific to the class; it is for the entire course.

Viewing: These are not week-specific to the class; they are for the entire course.

Listening: The albums listed here are week-specific, reflecting each period.

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Reading:

The Beatles Anthology, by the Beatles: Chronicle Books, 2000. This is a large hardback that is a must for every serious Beatle aficionado out there. It is “*The Beatles story, told for the first time, in their own words and pictures.*” It is comprehensive, and not that daunting to get through.

The Birth of the Beatles, by Sam Leach, Pharaoh Press, 1999.

The Beatles: The Authorized Biography by Hunter Davies, Random House, 1968

Lennon remembers: by Rolling Stone magazine, the original interview, 1970: The complete text of the interview that Jann Wenner did with John and Yoko.

The Playboy Interview, John Lennon and Yoko Ono, Putnam, 1980----a decade later and right before his death, this is a fascinating insight into how John's view of the band kept evolving.

The Complete Beatles Recording Sessions: The Official Story of the Abbey Road Years 1962-70, by Mark Lewisohn, Harmony Books, 1989: the definitive guide to every recording session done by the Beatles at EMI's Abbey Road recording studio

Symphony for the Devil, the Rolling Stones Story, by Philip Norman, Dell 1984

The True Adventures of the Rolling Stones, by Stanley Booth, Vintage, 1985

Life by Keith Richards, W&N books, 2011

The Rolling Stones 50, by Mick Jagger, Hachette, 2012

Viewing:

A Hard Day's Night, dir. by Richard Lester, 1964

The four complete Ed Sullivan Shows starring The Beatles, 1964

Help, directed by Richard Lester 1965

Magical Mystery Tour (TV film) directed by the Beatles, 1967

Yellow Submarine, directed by George Dunning, 1968.

Let it Be (contains rooftop concert), 1970, directed by Michael Lindsay-Hogg

The T.A.M.I. Show, dir. by Steve Binder, television special 1964

Born Under A Bad Sign, dist. By Silver and Gold, 1964. This documentary chronicles the early years of the Stones, 1962-66.1964

Charlie is my Darling, 1966, directed by Peter Whitehead, a fascinating documentary of the Stones 1965 Ireland tour

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Rolling Stones, dir. by Rollin Binzer, 1974

Gimme Shelter, dir. by the Albert and David Maysles, 1970

Shine a Light, dir. by Martin Scorsese, 2008

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Week-by-Week Class Outline, with accompanying suggested listening and in-class playlist:

Week 1: The early days, 1960-62: How a couple of groups of British kids found their dream without looking for it. London, Liverpool and Hamburg: importing r&b and rockabilly from the States. The Beatles emulate their heroes from across the pond: Elvis, Little Richard, Chuck Berry, Buddy Holly, and the Everlys. Germany beckons, as the nascent band pays its dues and hones their chops to a razor's edge playing midnight to 5AM in the Kaiserkeller and the Star Club. "I grew up in Hamburg, not Liverpool," ... John Lennon.

London, May 1962; Brian Jones, 20, the brilliant, blues and jazz-obsessed rebellious son of amateur musicians, puts an ad in *Jazz News*, and the Rolling Stones are formed. Within a few months, they are playing gigs.

Listening:

Beatles Anthology 1; includes 5 songs from their 1962 15-song one-hour Decca audition, as well as live performances from the period 1958–1964.

Live at the Star-Club in Hamburg, Germany; 1962: includes *Long Tall Sally*, *Kansas City* and 5 Chuck Berry songs—*this is the real raw Beatles as cover band album!*

Here's Little Richard, (Specialty, 1957)

The Sun Sessions, Elvis Presley, 1954-55, (RCA Victor, 1976)

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Muddy Waters: "Hoochie Coochie Man," "I Just Want to Make Love to You," "I'm Ready." "I'm a Man."

Howlin' Wolf: "Smokestack Lightnin'", "Back Door Man", "Killing Floor"

Stone Roots: the records that inspired the Rolling Stones 2012, Ideal Music

Week One in-class playlist:

play CD #1—Rock and Roll Music, Chuck/Beatles;

play CD #2—My Bonnie—Tony Sheridan with the Beatles

play video #1: from History of Rock n' Roll documentary.

play video #2: Beatles: Live at the Cavern Club 1962: "Kansas City"

play CD #3---Love Me Do (Beatles original)

play CD #4---Rock and roll never forgets—Bob Seger—

play CD #5---Roll Over Beethoven, Chuck Berry segue into Beatles

play CD #6---Love in Vain--Robert Johnson

play CD #7---I Just Want To Make Love To You, Muddy--fade

play video #3: Got My Mojo Working - Muddy Waters at Newport 1961

play CD #8---Mona, Bo Diddley, Stones

play video #4: from Bo Diddley, Hey Bo Diddley,

play video #5: Route 66: Stones

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Week 2: Watch out, world! The heady days of 1963: For the Fab Four—"Hey, we can write songs!" As for the Stones-- "you know, these guys just might be more than a great bar band". How two really tight bands parlayed their respective images into record deals. Brian Epstein and Andrew Loog Oldham take a chance, and turn them into England's—and eventually America's--heartthrobs.

Listening:

Please, Please Me, Parlophone, 1963: “the self-contained rock band, writing their own hits and playing their own instruments” Rolling Stone
I Wanna be Your Man, single, 1963 (written by Lennon-McCartney)

Week Two in-class playlist:

play CD #1—Words of Love—Beatles
play video #1 from History of Rock n’ Roll, Buddy Holly et al
play CD #2—Please Please me/Cathy’s clown
play CD #3—Twist and Shout-- Isley Bros.
play video #2: Twist and Shout--Beatles for the Queen
play CD #4—From Me To You—Beatles
play video #3 from the Sullivan Show, 2/16/64-- She Loves You
play CD #5—I Want To Hold Your Hand—Beatles
play CD #6---Please Mr. Postman medley (Marvelettes/Beatles)
play CD #7 Slow Down
play CD #8—Susie Q by Dale Hawkins
play CD #9—Come On—Stones
play video #4 from Born under a Bad Sign
play CD #10—You Better Move On—Stones

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Week 3: The insanity that was 1964 and “Mersey beaucoup!” The rock and roll band as a creative force; John and Paul realize that two heads are better than one; Mick and Keith start to write songs, Brian Jones experiments. Conquering America, one hit at a time. Battle lines are drawn; the pretty boys vs. the bad boys.
“...on tour that year (1964) it was crazy. Not within the band. In the band we were normal--the rest of the world was crazy.”...George Harrison

Listening:

Introducing the Beatles, 1964/With many of the same songs on “Please, Please Me”
Meet the Beatles, 1964, Contains many of the same songs on “With the Beatles”
The Beatles’ Second Album, Capitol, 1964
A Hard Day’s Night, United Artists, 1964
Something New, Capitol, 1964
Beatles ’65, Capitol, 1964
The Rolling Stones, Decca 1964: Their debut album, all covers
12X5, London, 1964; 5 originals, 7 covers

Week Three in-class playlist:

play CD#1—Hard Day’s Night
play CD#2---Money medley--Barrett Strong/Beatles
play video #1—from the Sullivan show: This Boy, All My Loving

play CD #3—Long Tall Sally—Beatles
play CD #4—I Should Have Known Better
play CD#5—Can't Buy me Love—Beatles
play video #2, If I fell-- from the film/album Hard Day's Night
play CD #6—Not Fade Away—Buddy Holly
play CD #7---Not Fade Away—Stones
play CD #8--Tell Me—Stones
play CD #9---Carol medley--Chuck Berry/Stones
play CD #10—It's All Over Now—the Valentinos
play video #3, Time is On My Side, October 1964, Sullivan show
play CD #11—Heart of Stone
play video #4-- from TAMI show—Around and around
play video #5-- TAMI show—it's all over now

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Week 4: Help! We Need Somebody, Because We Are Out of our Heads.

Superstardom-- 1965: A whole bunch of brilliant albums that will last forever—every cut a winner. The Stones continue to honor their idols, cutting two covers for every original, but finally breaking through with their artistic triumph, their first all-original record, recorded in America, while the Beatles surge into creative overdrive, deciding that they're done with gigs, thus establishing themselves as the greatest studio band of all time, with help from Sir George Martin.

Listening:

Beatles VI, Capitol 1965

Help, Capitol 1965

Rubber Soul, Capitol 1965

Yesterday and Today 1966

Out of Our Heads, Decca 1965; "the culmination of the Stones' early soul/R&B sound" Rock and roll and soul merged, and this was the result. A masterpiece.

December's Children, London 1965

Week Four in-class playlist:

play CD #1—Everybody Needs Somebody to Love
play video #1 *Sullivan show 5/2/65* Little Red Rooster
play video #2 Howlin'Wolf from Shindig
play video #3 From the film *Charlie is my darling: Last Time*
play CD #2—Satisfaction
play CD #3---Get Off My Cloud
Play video #4 from the Sullivan show, 2/13/66 As Tears Go By
play CD #4—8 Days a week
play CD #5---Honey Don't

play CD #6—I Feel Fine
play CD #7 No Reply
play video #5 from the film *Help*--You're Gonna Lose that Girl
play video #6 You've Got to Hide Your Love Away
play video #7 from the Sullivan Show, 9/12/65, Ticket to Ride
play CD #8—I've just seen a face
play CD #9—Norwegian Wood
play CD #10--Girl

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Week 5: Prisoners of their own success 1966-67: The Beatles continue to write great songs and set up shop in the studio, creating classic albums at a breakneck pace, and eventually pay the price; while the Stones make a great record, followed by a psychedelic bust, and then record their classic *Beggars Banquet*, signaling a return to roots rock, led by the ascent of Keith to the role of unquestioned leader.

Listening:

Revolver, Capitol 1966

Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, Capitol 1967

Aftermath, London, 1966: the Stones' first all-original album.

Between the Buttons Decca, 1967

Week Five in-class playlist:

play CD #1—Day Tripper
play CD #2---We Can Work it Out
Play video #1: Beatles/Sullivan, 1965--I'm Down
play CD #3--Got to get you into my life
play CD#4—God Only Knows
play CD#5—Lucy in the Sky
play CD#6--With a Little Help from my Friends—Joe Cocker
play video #2: Penny Lane
play video #3: Stones/Sullivan 19th nervous
play video #4: Paint it Black live 1966
play video #5: Stones/Sullivan Lady Jane
play CD #7—Let's spend the night together
play CD #8---Ruby Tuesday
play CD #9—Connection
play CD #10—Dandelion

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Week 6: The game changes: 1968-69. For one group, the long farewell; for the other, the long haul. The end was not pretty for the Beatles, hastened by the schism

between John and Paul. As the Fab Four broke up, the Stones, now minus Brian Jones, asserted their dominance as the world's greatest rock and roll band through a quartet of masterpiece albums and unforgettable live shows. How their respective popularity drove them to great heights—and lowered them to awful depths...

"...as a band we were always tight...we could argue a lot, but we were very, very close to each other..." George Harrison

Listening:

The White Album, Apple, 1968

Abbey Road, Apple, 1969

Let It Be, Apple, 1970

Beggars Banquet, London, 1968

Let It Bleed, London, 1969

Week Six in-class playlist:

play CD #1—Jumpin' Jack Flash

play CD #2--No Expectations

play CD #3---Sympathy for the Devil

play CD #4—Street Fighting Man

play CD #5---Gimme Shelter

play CD #6— You Can't Always get what you want

play video #1 Gimme Shelter: Wild Horses

play CD #6— Love in Vain—Stones

play video #2--Shine a Light; Champagne/Reefer

play CD #7—Back in the USSR

play CD #8—While My Guitar Gently Weeps

play video #3--Hey Jude--9/4/68

play CD #9—Let it Be

play CD #10—Come Together

play video #4--Don't Let me Down