

UCB OLLI
SUMMER 2025

The Beatles: At The Height of Their Experimental Genius

Professor: Stephen Schultz

Mondays 1:00-3:00pm

June 2, 9, 16

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Beatles are the most famous rock group in history. The reasons for this are musical as well as cultural and we will look at the two elements simultaneously. Their middle and late period songs from 1965-69 will be studied, with analysis of the musical and lyrical content. What musical styles do the songs address? What were their musical influences? Why were the Beatles so popular and influential?

COURSE CALENDAR

Week I **Revolver** Side 1 and **Tomorrow Never Knows**:
Experimental Explosion

Week II The Singles: **Rain, Strawberry Fields Forever,** and
Penny Lane: Leading to **Sgt. Pepper LHC**

Week III **Abbey Road** Side 2: The Classical Music Influence

LISTENING

You will need to have access to the Beatles' music covered in class. All of their albums are available as streaming music on iTunes, Amazon, and Spotify or you can also purchase the CDs online.

READINGS

Please read the following articles for background information:

1. <https://www.thebeatles.com>
2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Beatles

VIDEOS

Please watch the following performances on YouTube

1. <https://www.youtube.com/user/thebeatles>