



**Week four: California cotton fields: Bakersfield Country 1950-present:** the sons of Tom Joad: Buck Owens, Wynn Stewart, Red Simpson, Merle Haggard and Dwight Yoakam. Plus a tribute to Marty Robbins.

**Reading:**

*Merle Haggard: the running kind, by David Cantwell, 2013*

*The Birth of the Bakersfield Sound, by Lawton Jiles, 2013*

**Listening:**

*Marty Robbins: Gunfighter ballads and trail songs, 1962*

*Buck Owens: All-Time Greatest Hits, Vol.1*

*Merle Haggard: 20 greatest hits*

**Viewing:**

*Billy Mize and the Bakersfield Sound, Billy Mize 2014*

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**Week five: The women of country: 1955-1975; roll call at the hall of fame:** Kitty Wells, Patsy Cline, Wanda Jackson, Brenda Lee, Skeeter Davis, Loretta Lynn, Dolly Parton, Tammy Wynette, Emmylou Harris.

**Reading:**

*Tammy Wynette: tragic country queen, Jimmy McDonough 2010*

*Dolly: the biography, Alanna Nash, 2002*

**Listening:**

*Patsy Cline's 12 greatest hits, 1957-63, (this record is an absolute must!!)*

*Loretta Lynn's Greatest Hits, Volume 1, 1968*

*Tammy Wynette, Your Good Girl's Gonna Go Bad, 1967*

*Pieces of the Sky, Emmylou Harris 1974*

**Viewing:**

*Coal Miner's Daughter, Sissy Spacek, Levon Helm, 1980*

*Sweet Dreams, Jessica Lange, 1985*

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**Week six: The country song and the country record:** How the great songsmiths can make your day—or break your heart; an in-depth look at five of the greats. A look at the “A team” and other studio musicians who created the Nashville Sound.

**Reading:**

*He Stopped Loving Her Today: George Jones, Billy Sherrill, and the Pretty-Much Totally True Story of the Making of the Greatest Country Record of All Time, by Jack Isenhour, 2011*

**Listening:**

*I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry, Hank Williams*

*I Fall to Pieces, Patsy Cline*

*Funny How Time Slips Away, Willie Nelson*

*Pancho and Lefty, Willie Nelson and Merle Haggard*

*He Stopped Loving Her Today: George Jones*

**Viewing:**

*Tender mercies, Robert Duvall*

*I Saw the light, by Marc Abraham, 2015*