Course Title: “Great Voices; an in-depth look at six iconic rock and R&B singers”

Course Description:
Throughout the rich, long arc of popular music there has always existed the great singer, the individual who elevates the great song to another dimension, a place where, as listeners, we are thrilled and inspired for the rest of our lives when we hear their work. This course will cover the lives and careers of six legendary rock and r&b singers from the period 1955-75, five Americans and one English singer whose work has embodied American roots music. Although all of them are also known as songwriters and performers, they made their mark as vocalists, who could rock our socks off one minute, while with the next breath cajole the sweetest melodies from the material they so passionately tackled. Taught chronologically, the six classes will be presented as a cultural and musical journey through the amazing lives and work of these artists when they were at the forefront of popular music. The course will do this through several media: lectures, slide shows, photographs, recorded music, film clips and the use of live music. The instructor will play piano, guitar and sing, and will choose appropriate examples from each genre to perform in class. In this class we will cover:

Week One: The “Genius,” Ray Charles
Week Two: The “King of Soul,” Sam Cooke
Week Three: The “Voice,” Roy Orbison
Week Four: The “The White Queen of Soul.” Dusty Springfield
Week Five: The “Big O,” Otis Redding
Week Six: The “Queen of Soul,” Aretha Franklin

Suggested reading, listening, viewing

Week One; Ray Charles
Brother Ray: Ray Charles' Own Story, by Ray Charles and David Ritz 2004
Ray Charles, Man and Music, by Michael Lydon
Ray Charles, his 1st album, Atlantic, 1957
The Genius of Ray Charles, 1959
The Genius Hits the Road 1960
Ray Charles’ Greatest Hits 1962
Modern Sounds in Country and Western Music, 1962
Blues Brothers, the movie, 1980
Ray, a film, starring Jamie Foxx 2004

Week Two; Sam Cooke
Dream Boogie: The Triumph of Sam Cooke, by Peter Guralnick, 2006
You Send Me: The Life and Times of Sam Cooke, by Daniel Wolff, 1996
The Wonderful World of Sam Cooke, 1960
Ain't That Good News, 1964
Sam Cooke at the Copa, 1964
Greatest Hits, 1998 (21 songs)
American Masters; Sam Cooke: Crossing Over, 2010

**Week Three; Roy Orbison**
The Authorized Roy Orbison, by Wesley, Roy Jr., and Alex Orbison
Crying, 1962
In Dreams 1963
Pretty Woman 1964
Traveling Wilburys 1988
Roy Orbison: One of the Lonely Ones, BBC 2015
Roy Orbison and Friends: A Black and White Night, with Bruce Springsteen, Elvis Costello, Bonnie Raitt and others, 1988

**Week Four: Dusty Springfield**
Dusty: Biography of Dusty Springfield Hardcover by Lucy O'Brien
Dusty: An Intimate Portrait of a Musical Legend by Karen Bartlett
Very Best of Dusty Springfield
Dusty in Memphis
What Have I Done to Deserve This? (with Pet Shop Boys)
(“Just Dusty”) documentary [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUNfRk1MZE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUNfRk1MZE)
Full Circle--The Life & Music of Dusty Springfield, available on youtube.

**Week Five; Otis Redding**
Otis Redding; an Unfinished Life, by Jonathan Gould, 2017
Dreams to Remember: Otis Redding, Stax Records, and the Transformation of Southern Soul by Mark Ribowsky 2015
Pain in My Heart 1964
Otis Blue: Otis Redding Sings Soul 1965
Complete & Unbelievable: The Otis Redding Dictionary of Soul 1966
Dock of the Bay 1968
The Immortal Otis Redding 1968
Monterey Pop, 1967
Stax Volt Revue, Live in Norway 1967

**Week six; Aretha Franklin, 1942-2018**
Aretha: From These Roots, by David Ritz, 1999
Respect: The Life of Aretha Franklin, by David Ritz, 2015
I Never Loved a Man the Way I Love You, 1967
Lady Soul, 1968
Aretha Now 1969
Who’s Zoomin’ Who 1985
Blues Brothers, 1980
Aretha Franklin: The Queen of Soul |PBS American Masters documentary