

Part One: Weeks 1-6: course description and syllabus

This course covers the golden age of Motown 1960-70. It will concentrate on the people who started, nurtured, and established the label as the driving force behind American popular music in that period. The course will do this through several media: lectures, photographs, recorded music, film clips, question and answer sessions, and the use of live music. The instructor will play piano, guitar and sing, and will choose appropriate examples from each genre.

**** suggested reading, listening, and viewing:***

Week 1: The Visionary; Berry Gordy and the origins of Motown; Barrett Strong

Reading:

To Be Loved: The Music, the Magic, the Memories of Motown : An Autobiography by Berry Gordy, 1994

Where Did Our Love Go, by Nelson George (1986)

Motown: Music, Money, Sex, and Power by Gerald Posner (2005)

Listening:

Please Mr. Postman - The Marvelettes 1961

Do You Love Me (Now That I Can Dance) - The Contours 1962

Money and Other Big Hits - Barrett Strong 1962

Viewing:

Motown 25: Yesterday, Today, Forever, TV documentary 1983, with an all-star lineup

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Week 2: Smokey Robinson; musical force of nature: The man behind the music

Reading:

Smokey: Inside My Life by Smokey Robinson, David Ritz (1989)

Listening:

Hi... We're The Miracles - The Miracles

I'll Try Something New - The Miracles)

The Fabulous Miracles - The Miracles

The Miracles Doin' Mickey's Monkey

Going to a Go-Go -The Miracles

Smokey (1973)

Viewing:

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Week 3: The great female singing groups: the Marvelettes, Supremes, Vandellas,

Reading:

Nowhere to Run, The Story of Soul Music, by Gerri Hershey (1985)

The Original Marvelettes: Motown's Mystery Girl Group, by Marc Taylor, 2004

The Supremes: A Saga of Motown Dreams, Success, and Betrayal by Mark Ribowsky

Listening:

The Marvellous Marvelettes - The Marvelettes (Tamla) 1963

Where Did Our Love Go - The Supremes 1964

More Hits by The Supremes 1965

I Hear a Symphony 1966

Reflections 1968

Come and Get These Memories 19563

Heat Wave 1963

Greatest Hits 1966

Viewing:

Dreamgirls, dir. by Bill Condon, 2006

Sparkle, dir. by Sam Osteen 2012

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Week 4: Their male counterparts: The Contours, The Temptations, The Isley Brothers, The Four Tops, Junior Walker and the All Stars

Reading:

Ain't Too Proud to Beg: The Troubled Lives and Enduring Soul of the Temptations by Mark Ribowsky 2010

Listening:

Gettin' Ready 1965

Greatest Hits, The Temptations 1966

Temptations Live! 1967

The Temptations Wish It Would Rain 1968

Cloud Nine 1969

Four Tops 1964

Four Tops' Second Album 1965

Four Tops Live! 1966

Four Tops' Greatest Hits 1967

Reach Out 1967

Do You Love Me (Now That I Can Dance) Contours 1962

Shotgun, Junior Walker and the All Stars, 1965

This Old Heart of Mine, Isley Brothers, 1966

Viewing:

Get Ready: Definitive Performances by The Temptations 1965-1972 (DVD)

The Five Heartbeats (1991) Director: Robert Townsend

The Temptations, TV mini-series, `1998—very well done.

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Week 5: The great female singers: Mary Wells, Brenda Holloway, Kim Weston, Gladys Knight, Tami Terrell, Diana Ross (solo)

Reading:

Mary Wells: The Tumultuous Life of Motown's First Superstar 2016 by Peter Benjaminson
Between Each Line of Pain and Glory: My Life Story, by Gladys Knight, 1998

Listening:

The One Who Really Loves You - Mary Wells

Two Lovers and Other Great Hits - Mary Wells 1963

Every Little Bit Hurts - Brenda Holloway 1965

Take Two - Marvin Gaye and Kim Weston 1966

United - Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell 1967

Everybody Needs Love - Gladys Knight & Pips (Soul) 1967

Week 6: The Funk Brothers, "Hitsville"

Reading:

Standing in the Shadows of Motown, an autobiography. The Life and Music of Legendary Bassist James Jamerson (1989) with CD, transcriptions of his bass parts

Listening:

Any Motown record recorded between 1961 and 1972.

Viewing:

Standing in the Shadows of Motown, dir. by Paul Justman (2002)