

Williams College Departments of English and Music
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Office Hours: Bell= Tues. 1:30-2:30, Wed. 10-12
Sheppard= Tues. 2:30-3:30, Wed. 1-3

INTR 165/ENGL 243/MUS 112
Words and Music in the 60s and 70s
Fall 2005, Mon/Thurs 2:35-3:50

What are the sources of meaning and emotional power in song? To what extent do musical settings of text support meanings already inherent in the words? To what extent do the musical elements of song fix the meaning of otherwise ambiguous lyrics? Finally, what is lost and what is gained when poetry is transformed into song? In this course, we will investigate the intricate alliance between words and music in American and British popular song of the 1960s and 70s. Our focus will be on the songs of Bob Dylan, John Lennon/Paul McCartney, and Joni Mitchell. Albums receiving particular attention will include Dylan's *Highway 61 Revisited* and *Blood on the Tracks*, the Beatles' *Revolver* and *Sgt. Pepper*, and Mitchell's *Hejira* and *Court and Spark*. In addition to training our analytic and interpretive skills on these paramount songwriters, we will also consider songs by those figures who influenced them and by those they, in turn, influenced. Our primary focus will be on the songs themselves—on how they were put together and on how we hear them—yet we will also consider the impact of social and artistic context on their creation. By studying these particular songs, we will develop and refine our abilities to read and hear all forms of words and music.

Required Materials:

MUS 112 Reading Packets (distributed in class; cost billed to student)

Studio A: The Bob Dylan Reader, W. W. Norton, 2004

The John Lennon Companion, Da Capo Press, 2004

Supplemental CDs, videos, scores, and books are held on reserve in Sawyer.

Useful websites: <http://bobdylan.com/>; <http://jonimitchell.com/>; <http://www.jmdl.com/>;

<http://thebeatles.com/>; <http://www.mplcommunications.com/mccartney/>;

<http://www.johnlennon.it/>

All listening, reading, and viewing assignments should be completed **before** each class. All written work is to be completed individually according to the guidelines of the honor code.

Evaluation: (no extensions; late paper penalty is one grade level per day)

25% Paper (5-6 page) due 10/12 by 4PM

25% Midterm 10/27

15% 4 Quizzes (dates unannounced, only highest 3 scores counted, no makeup dates)

35% Final Exam (scheduled during the exam period)

INTR 165, ENGL 243, MUS 112—Fall 2005
Words and Music in the 60s and 70s
Class Topics and Assignments

Introduction

9/8 The Interdisciplinary Study of Popular Song

I. Bob Dylan

9/12 Dylan's Roots and The Folk Scene

SONGS: *Bob Dylan: Song to Woody*; Talking New York; *The Bootleg Series Vols. 1-3*: Talking Bear Mountain Picnic Massacre Blues; Hard Times in New York Town; **Rambling, Gambling Willie**; Let Me Die in My Footsteps; Last Thoughts on Woody Guthrie; Quit Your Low Down Ways; *The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan*: Bob Dylan's Blues; I Shall Be Free; Compilation: Folk & Blues Examples
READING ASSIGNMENT: Life & Times, 1-16; Dylan, *Chronicles Volume I* excerpt; Garman, "Woody's Children" [All Dylan readings are in the "Dylan Course Pack," except for those in *Studio A*]; *Studio A: The Bob Dylan Reader*, 3-13, 200-201

9/15 Folk Hero: Identity, Authenticity, and Sincerity

SONGS: *The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan*: **A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall; Don't Think Twice, It's All Right**; Girl of the North Country; *The Times They Are A-Changin'*: Boots of Spanish Leather; One Too Many Mornings; *Another Side of Bob Dylan*: **It Ain't Me, Babe; All I Really Want to Do**
READING ASSIGNMENT: Life & Times, 16-25; Lipsitz, "Who'll Stop The Rain? Youth Culture, Rock 'n' Roll, and Social Crises;" *Studio A: The Bob Dylan Reader*, 285-290

9/19 Dylan's Political Songs, 1963-1964

SONGS: Unreleased: The Death of Emmett Till; *The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan*: Masters of War; **Blowin' in the Wind**; *The Times They Are A-Changin'*: With God on Our Side; **The Lonesome Death of Hattie Carroll; The Times They Are A-Changin'**; **When the Ship Comes In**; *Another Side of Bob Dylan*: **My Back Pages**; Chimes of Freedom
READING ASSIGNMENT: *Studio A: The Bob Dylan Reader*, 22-39; excerpt from Hajdu, *Positively Fourth Street*; excerpt from Marqusee, *The Chimes of Freedom: The Politics of Bob Dylan's Art*

9/22 Bringing It All Back Home

SONGS: She Belongs to Me; **Subterranean Homesick Blues**; Maggie's Farm; Love Minus Zero/No Limit; Outlaw Blues; On the Road Again; Bob Dylan's 115th Dream; **Mr. Tambourine Man**; Gates of Eden; **It's Alright, Ma (I'm Only Bleeding)**; It's All Over Now, Baby Blue
FILM: *Don't Look Back*
READING ASSIGNMENT: Life & Times, 25-31; *Studio A: The Bob Dylan Reader*, 202-204

Optional reading: "Bob Dylan Interview, 1965," "The *Playboy* Interview, 1966"; Mellers, "Bob Dylan: Freedom and Responsibility"

- 9/26 Hipster Apocalypse: Newport 1965; Highway 61 Revisited; Blonde On Blonde
SONGS: *Highway 61 Revisited*: **Like a Rolling Stone; Desolation Row**; Ballad of a Thin Man; Just Like Tom Thumb's Blues; *Blonde on Blonde*: **Visions of Johanna**; Just Like a Woman; I Want You; Stuck Inside of Mobile With the Memphis Blues Again; Sad-Eyed Lady of the Lowlands
READING ASSIGNMENT: *Studio A: The Bob Dylan Reader*, 40-62, 291-312; Marcus, "Prologue"; Bowden, excerpt from *Performed Literature; Rolling Stone* #1
Optional: Ricks, "Pride" from *Dylan's Vision of Sin*; Gleason, "The Children's Crusade"
- 9/29 Dylan Goes Country: The Basement Tapes and Three Country Albums of 1969-1971
SONGS: *The Basement Tapes*: **Tears of Rage**; This Wheel's On Fire; **I Shall Be Released**; *John Wesley Harding*: **I Dreamed I Saw St. Augustine; All Along the Watchtower**; The Ballad of Frankie Lee and Judas Priest; *Nashville Skyline*: Lay, Lady, Lay; Country Pie; *New Morning*: If Not For You; Day of the Locusts; New Morning; Sign on the Window
READING ASSIGNMENT: Life & Times, 31-41; excerpt from Marcus, *Invisible Republic*; *Newsweek* cover story, "The Book of Bob;" Willis, "Dylan;" *Studio A: The Bob Dylan Reader*, 68-70, 208-221
Optional: "The *Rolling Stone* Interview, 1969"
- 10/3 Blood on the Tracks
SONGS: You're Gonna Make Me Lonesome When You Go; You're A Big Girl Now; **Tangled Up in Blue; Simple Twist of Fate**; Shelter From the Storm; Meet Me in the Morning; Lily, Rosemary and the Jack of Hearts; **Idiot Wind**; If You See Her, Say Hello; Buckets of Rain
READING ASSIGNMENT: Bell, "Double Dylan;" Gill & Odegard, excerpt from *A Simple Twist of Fate*
Optional: Dickstein, *Gates of Eden*
- 10/6 The 1970s; Redemption Songs
SONGS: *Desire*: **Hurricane; Isis**; One More Cup of Coffee; **Oh, Sister; Sara**; *Street Legal*: Senor (Tales of Yankee Power); Where Are You Tonight?; **Changing of the Guards**; *Planet Waves*: Forever Young; *Pat Garrett & Billy the Kid*: Knockin' On Heaven's Door; *Slow Train Coming*: **Precious Angel**; *Shot of Love*: **Every Grain of Sand**
READING ASSIGNMENT: Life & Times, 47-57; *Studio A: The Bob Dylan Reader*, 122-129, 147-154, 158-165, 235-244, 254-262, 280-284
- 10/12 **PAPER DUE** by 4:00 PM
- 10/13 Later Dylan: Not Dark Yet
SONGS: *Empire Burlesque*: When the Night Comes Falling From the Sky; *Knocked Out Loaded*: Brownsville Girl; *Oh Mercy*: Series of Dreams; *Infidels*: **Jokerman**; *Time Out of Mind*: Love Sick; Trying to Get to Heaven; Not Dark Yet; Highlands; *Wonderboys*

Soundtrack: Things Have Changed; "Love and Theft": Tweedle Dee & Tweedle Dum;
High Water
READING ASSIGNMENT: Day, "Looking for Nothing: Dylan Now"

II. **Joni Mitchell**

10/17 Mitchell's Roots and Early Career

SONGS: *Song to a Seagull*: **I Had a King**; Night in the City; Marcie; The Dawntreader;
Song to a Seagull; **Cactus Tree**; *Clouds*: **Chelsea Morning**; **Songs to Aging Children
Come**; **Both Sides, Now**; *Ladies of the Canyon*: **For Free**; Rainy Night House; Big
Yellow Taxi; **Woodstock**

FILM: *Joni Mitchell: Woman of Heart and Mind* [2 hours]

READING ASSIGNMENT: [All Mitchell readings are in the "Joni Mitchell Course Pack"]
Intro and Chap. 1 from Smith, *Elvis Costello, Joni Mitchell, and the Torch Song Tradition*;
"Joni Mitchell: In Her Own Words;" Dallas, "Joni, The Seagull from Saskatoon;" Lydon,
"Joni Mitchell: In Her House Love;" Paglia on "Woodstock"

10/20 Self and Others: *Blue* and *Court and Spark*

SONGS: *Blue*: All I Want; Little Green; **Blue**; California; **This Flight Tonight**; **River**; A
Case of You; The Last Time I Saw Richard; *Court and Spark*: Court and Spark; **Help Me**;
Free Man in Paris; **People's Parties**; Raised on Robbery; Trouble Child

READING ASSIGNMENT: Ruhlmann "Joni Mitchell: From Blue to Indigo;" Whitesell,
"Harmonic Palette in Early Joni Mitchell;" Intro and Chap. 6 from Whiteley, *Women and
Popular Music*; Chap. 8 from Mellers, *Angels of the Night: Popular Female Singers of our
Time* [skim, focus on his discussion of our assigned songs]

10/24 Song Cycles: *Hissing of Summer Lawns* and *Hejira*

SONGS: *The Hissing of Summer Lawns*: In France They Kiss on Main Street; **The Jungle
Line**; Don't Interrupt the Sorrow; **The Hissing of Summer Lawns**; **The Boho Dance**;
Harry's House—Centerpiece; Sweet Bird; *Hejira*: **Coyote**; **Amelia**; **Hejira**; Song for
Sharon; Black Crow; Blue Motel Room; Refuge of the Roads

READING ASSIGNMENT: Whitesell, "A Joni Mitchell Aviary;" Rodgers, "My Secret
Place: The Guitar Odyssey of Joni Mitchell;" Rodgers, "Setting the Stage: The Vocal and
Lyrical Craft of Joni Mitchell;" Chap. 1 from Wolfe, *The Painted Word* [particularly
21-23]; Coppage, "More than a Sprinkling of Symbolism in Joni Mitchell's 'The Hissing of
Summer Lawns';" Meisel, "An End to Innocence: How Joni Mitchell Fails"

10/27 **MIDTERM**

10/31 Joni's Jazz

SONGS: *Court and Spark*: Twisted; *Hejira*: **Furry Sings the Blues**; *Don Juan's Reckless
Daughter*: **Talk to Me**; **Paprika Plains**; Dreamland; Don Juan's Reckless Daughter;
Mingus: **A Chair in the Sky**; The Dry Cleaner From Des Moines; Goodbye Pork Pie Hat;
Both Sides Now: Both Sides Now

READING ASSIGNMENT: Jackson, "*Don Juan's Reckless Daughter*;" Feather, "Joni Mitchell Makes Mingus Sing;" Ward, "Charles, Joni and the Circle Game;" Levitin, "A Conversation with Joni Mitchell;" Chap. 15 from Echols, *Shaky Ground: The '60s and Its Aftershocks*

11/3 More Recent Mitchell

SONGS: *Dog Eat Dog*: Tax Free; Ethiopia; *Chalk Mark in a Rainstorm*: Number One; Lakota; **The Tea Leaf Prophecy (Lay Down Your Arms)**; **The Beat of Black Wings**; The Reoccurring Dream; *Night Ride Home*: **Slouching Towards Bethlehem**; Come in from the Cold; *Turbulent Indigo*: Sex Kills; Turbulent Indigo; The Sire of Sorrow (Job's Sad Song); *Taming the Tiger*: Harlem in Havana

READING ASSIGNMENT: Holden, "Joni Mitchell Finds the Peace of Middle Age;" Yeats, "The Second Coming;" Greig, "The Charismatic Siren Gives Way to the Doom-Laden Seer;" Hoskyns, "Our Lady of Sorrows;" "Melancholy Meets the Infinite Sadness;" Costello, "Joni's Last Waltz?"

III. **The Beatles: John Lennon and Paul McCartney**

11/7 The Roots of Beatlemania

SONGS: *Please Please Me*: I Saw Her Standing There; Please Please Me; Love Me Do; **Twist and Shout**; *With The Beatles*: All I've Got to Do; **All My Loving**; Please Mister Postman; Roll over Beethoven; You Really Got a Hold on Me; *Meet The Beatles* [Capitol]: **I Want to Hold Your Hand**; This Boy; *The Beatles Second Album* [Capitol]: Long Tall Sally; **I'll Get You; She Loves You**; *Beatles for Sale*: Words of Love; Honey Don't; Compilation: Skiffle and early Rock and Roll examples

READING ASSIGNMENT: [All Beatles readings are in the "Beatles Course Pack," except for those in *The Lennon Companion*] Ehrenreich/Hess/Jacobs, "Beatlemania: Girls just want to have fun;" Inglis, "'The Beatles Are Coming!'" Chap. 8 from Hertsgaard, *A Day in The Life*; Price, "Sources of American Styles in the Music of the Beatles;" Beller-McKenna, "Beatle-John's 'Alter Ego'"; *Lennon Companion*, 27-29, 31-38 [optional]

11/10 The Beatles at the Movies; John vs. Paul

SONGS: *A Hard Day's Night*: A Hard Day's Night; If I Fell; Can't Buy Me Love; *Beatles For Sale*: **I'm A Loser**; I'll Follow the Sun; Eight Days a Week; *Help!*: You Can't Do That: **Help!**; **You've Got to Hide Your Love Away**; You're Going to Lose That Girl; Ticket to Ride; It's Only Love; **I've Just Seen a Face**; **Yesterday**

FILM: *A Hard Day's Night*

READING ASSIGNMENT: *Lennon Companion*, 44-53; Cook and Mercer, "From Me to You;" Whissell, "Traditional and Emotional Stylometric Analysis;" Chap 10. from Hertsgaard, *A Day in The Life*; Compton, "McCartney or Lennon?" [skim]

11/14 The Day Bob Met John and Paul: *Rubber Soul*; *Revolver*

SONGS: *Rubber Soul*: Drive My Car; **Norwegian Wood (This Bird Has Flown)**; You Won't See Me; Nowhere Man; Think for Yourself; **The Word**; Michelle; I'm Looking

Through You; **In My Life**; **Run For Your Life**; *Revolver*: Taxman; **Eleanor Rigby**; **I'm Only Sleeping**; **She Said She Said**; For No One; **Got to Get You into My Life**
READING ASSIGNMENT: Inglis, "Synergies and Reciprocities;" Roos, "The Walrus and the Deacon;" *Lennon Companion*, 60-66, 69-71, 145-49; Baur, "Ringo round *Revolver*"
FILM [optional]: *Help!*

11/17 Psychedelic Beatles: India and Drugs

SONGS: *Revolver*: Love You To; Doctor Robert; **Tomorrow Never Knows**; *Sgt. Pepper*: **Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds**; Getting Better; **Within You Without You**; *Magical Mystery Tour* [Capitol]: Magical Mystery Tour; **I Am the Walrus**; Blue Jay Way; **Strawberry Fields Forever**; **Penny Lane**; Baby You're a Rich Man; Single: Rain
FILM: *Yellow Submarine*
READING ASSIGNMENT: Reising, "It is not dying'"; Chap. 3 from Bromell, *Tomorrow Never Knows*; *Lennon Companion*, 134-37; Farrell, Chap. 6 from *Indian Music and the West*; Ginsberg, excerpts from *Indian Journals*

11/21 Sgt. Pepper

SONGS: Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band; With a Little Help From My Friends; Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds; Getting Better; **Fixing a Hole**; **She's Leaving Home**; Being for the Benefit of Mr. Kite; Within You Without You; **When I'm Sixty-four**; Lovely Rita; Good Morning, Good Morning; Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band (reprise); **A Day in the Life**
READING ASSIGNMENT: Michaelis, "Rereading: Sgt. Pepper's Words;" Chap. 4 from Mellers, *The Music of the Beatles*; Chap. 11 from Martin, *All You Need is Ears*; *Lennon Companion*, 89-93, 99-109

11/28 The Postmodern White Album

SONGS: **Back in the U.S.S.R.**; **Glass Onion**; Ob-la-di Ob-la-da; While My Guitar Gently Weeps; **Happiness is a Warm Gun**; I'm So Tired; **Blackbird**; Rocky Raccoon; Don't Pass Me By; Why Don't We Do It in the Road?; **Julia**; **Yer Blues**; Mother Nature's Son; Sexy Sadie; **Helter Skelter**; **Revolution 1**; Honey Pie; Revolution 9
READING ASSIGNMENT: Whitely, "The Postmodern White Album;" *Lennon Companion*, 152-54

12/1 Breakup: Abbey Road and Let it Be

SONGS: Single: Hey Jude; *Abbey Road*: Come Together; **Something**; Maxwell's Silver Hammer; Oh! Darling; I Want You (She's So Heavy); Here Comes the Sun; You Never Give Me Your Money; **She Came in through the Bathroom Window**; Golden Slumbers; Carry That Weight; The End; *Let It Be*: Two of Us; **Dig a Pony**; **Across the Universe**; **Let It Be**; **The Long and Winding Road**; For You Blue; Get Back
READING ASSIGNMENT: *Lennon Companion*, 157-59, 161-62; Chap. 4 from Everett, *The Beatles as Musicians: Revolver through the Anthology*; Excerpts from *Lennon Remembers (Rolling Stone Interviews)*

12/5 Beyond the Beatles: Lennon, McCartney, Harrison

SONGS:

LENNON: *John Lennon/Plastic Ono Band*: Mother; **Working Class Hero**; Isolation; God; *Imagine*: Imagine; Gimme Some Truth; *Sometime in New York City*: **Woman Is the Nigger of the World**; *Shaved Fish*: Give Peace a Chance; **Instant Karma**; Power to the People; *Double Fantasy*: Watching the Wheels
MCCARTNEY: *McCartney*: **Maybe I'm Amazed**; *Band on the Run*: Jet; *Venus and Mars*: Listen to What the Man Said; *Wings at the Speed of Sound*: Silly Love Songs
HARRISON: *All Things Must Pass*: **My Sweet Lord**; What is Life; *Dark Horse*: It is "He" (Jai Sri Krishna)

READING ASSIGNMENT: *Lennon Companion*, 5-14, 165-188, 188-197 [optional], 211-219; Chap. 2 from Hampton, *Guerilla Minstrels: John Lennon, Joe Hill, Woody Guthrie, Bob Dylan*; Dempsey, "McCartney at 60"

Conclusion

12/8 Some Further Words and Music

FINAL EXAM (scheduled during exam period)