
Course description: This is an eight-week course that will take a deep dive into the music and story of six of the greatest American rock and roll bands, groups that defined the genre. The rich history of rock and roll is full of brilliant songs and singers, but the essence of rock and roll has always been the rock and roll band—that small--usually four to seven piece—ensemble made up of young musicians who caught lightning in a bottle together, taking their blues, R&B, rockabilly, early rock, country, folk and even jazz influences and combining them to create music that is timeless and inspiring.

Week-by-Week Course Outline and Syllabus
*suggested reading, viewing and listening, and in-class audio and video playlist for each class.

Week One: The Doors: the original poetry of Jim Morrison and his musical mates begets psychedelic rock: There at the very beginning in LA, they forged their own brand of psychedelic blues-based rock, led by their brilliant, mercurial and tragically short-lived supernova, poet and charismatic front man.

Reading:
The Doors, hardcover, by Ben Fong-Torres, 2006
Riders on the Storm, My Life with Jim Morrison and the Doors/John Densmore, 1991

Viewing:
When you’re Strange: A Film about the Doors, 2010
"Mr. Mojo Risin': The Story of L.A. Woman" 2011
The Doors - Live in Europe 1968
The Doors, directed by Oliver Stone, starring Val Kilmer, 1991

Listening:
The Doors (1967) their debut album
Strange Days (1967)
Waiting for the Sun (1968)
The Soft Parade (1969)
Morrison Hotel (1970)
L.A. Woman (1971)

Audio and video playlist
Break on Through
Alabama Song (Whiskey Bar)
Light my Fire
People are Strange
Love me Two Times
Hello I Love You
Touch Me  
Roadhouse Blues  
Love Her Madly  
Riders on the Storm  
LA Woman  

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**Week 2: The Allman Brothers Band:** They invented Southern Rock, endured tragedy, and persevered. Led by their soulful blue-eyed soul singer Greg, they overcame the loss of older brother and guitar virtuoso Duane, and made lasting music. There was nobody like them, and there never will be.

**Reading:**
*Please Be with Me: A Song for My Father, Duane Allman, by Galadrielle Allman*  
2014 (Berkeley resident)  
*My Cross to Bear by Greg Allman, 2013*  
*Midnight Riders: The Story of the Allman Brothers Band, Scott Freeman 1996*

**Viewing:**
*Song of the South: Duane Allman and The Rise Of The Allman Brothers 2013*
*The Allman Brothers Band, After the Crash, 2016*
*All My Friends: Celebrating the Songs & Voice of Gregg Allman 2014*

**Listening:**
*The Allman Brothers Band 1969*
*Idlewild South 1970*
*At Fillmore East (live) 1971*
*Eat a Peach (part live) 1972*
*Brothers and Sisters 1973*
*1970-2005: 23 live albums*
*The Very Best of Gregg Allman 2011*

**Audio and video playlist**
*Trouble no more*
*Ain’t My Cross to Bear*
*Whipping Post*
*Midnight Rider*
*Revival*
*Statesboro Blues*
*Leave My Blues at Home*
*Stormy Monday*
*Ain’t Wastin’ Time No More*
*Melissa*
*Ramblin’ Man*
*Jessica*
One Way Out
Blue Sky
Little Martha

**Week 3: The Band:** Four young Canadian musicians meet an Arkansas drummer; join the Hawks, back up Bob Dylan, and go on to create timeless Americana records. Led by guitarist/songwriter Jamie Robbie Robertson, they were the quintessential pros, both live and in the studio—never a wasted note.

**Reading:**
*Testimony, a memoir by Robbie Robertson, 2016*
*This Wheel's on Fire: Levon Helm and the Story of The Band, by Levon Helm 2013*

**Viewing:**
*The Last Waltz 1978, directed by Martin Scorsese*
*Once We Were Brothers, directed by Daniel Roher, 2020*
*(required because it is SO great!)*

**Listening:**
*Music from Big Pink 1968*
*The Band 1969*
*Stage Fright 1970*
*Cahoots 1971*
*Rock of Ages 1972 (live double album)*
*Moondog Matinee 1973*
*The Basement Tapes 1975(with Bob Dylan)*

**Audio and video playlist**
*Tears of Rage*
*In a Station*
*The Weight*
*Long Black Veil*
*Chest Fever*
*Lonesome Suzie*
*I Shall be Released*
*Across the Great Divide*
*Up on Cripple Creek*
*Unfaithful*
*Look out Cleveland*
*Mystery Train*
*Open the door Homer (with Dylan)*
*The Shape I’m In*
It Makes No Difference
The Night they Drove old Dixie Down

**Week 4: Creedence Clearwater Revival:** From El Cerrito to the bayou, with heavy doses of hooks and soulful singing, John Fogerty and friends made their mark, despite being torn apart by greed and betrayal.

**Reading:**
*Fortunate Son: My Life, My Music by John Fogerty* 2016
*Bad Moon Rising: The Unauthorized History of Creedence Clearwater Revival, by Hank Bordowitz* 2007

**Viewing:**
*Inside: Creedence Clearwater Revival* 2005
*John Fogerty; My 50-year trip, available with PBS KQED passport ($60/year)*

**Listening:**
Creedence Clearwater Revival 1968
Bayou Country 1969
Green River 1969
Willy and the Poor Boys 1969
Cosmos factory 1970
Centerfield (John Fogerty solo album) 1985

**Audio and video playlist**
Wrote a song for Everyone
Suzie Q.
Born on the Bayou
Proud Mary
Green River
Bad Moon Rising
Lodi
Fortunate Son
Down on the corner
Long as I can see the Light
Lookin’ Out My Back Door
Who will Stop the Rain
Have you ever Seen the Rain
Travelin’ Band
Someday never Comes
Centerfield (John Fogerty solo)

**Week 5: Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, Part One, 1976-83:** Bursting out of the youth center dances of Florida and taking the rock world by storm, one great
record after another, Tom Petty and his bandmates exemplified, as much as any American rock and roll band, what a dedicated selfless group of friends with a shared interest can achieve—success, fame and fortune, without compromise.

**Reading:**
- Petty Unabridged, by Warren Zanes, 2016
- Tom Petty; A rock and roll life, by Nick Thomas, 2018
- Conversations with Tom Petty, Paul Zollo 2020

**Viewing:**
- Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers: Runnin' Down a Dream, 2007, directed by Peter Bogdanovich
- Tom Petty: Somewhere You Feel Free 2021—to be released this fall on streaming

**Listening:**

**With the Heartbreakers**
- Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers (1976)
- You're Gonna Get It! (1978)
- Damn the Torpedoes (1979)
- Hard Promises (1981)
- Long After Dark (1982)
- Southern Accents (1985)
- Into the Great Wide Open (1991)

**With the Traveling Wilburys**
- Traveling Wilburys Vol. 3 (1990)

**Solo**
- Full Moon Fever (1989)
- Wildflowers (1994)

**Audio and video playlist**
- Breakdown
- American Girl
- I Need to Know
- Listen to her Heart
- Stop Draggin' My Heart Around, duet with Stevie Nicks
- Refugee
- Here Comes My Girl
- Even the Losers
- Don't do me like that
- The Waiting
- A Woman in Love
- You Got Lucky
**Week 6: Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, Part Two, 1985-98:** the modest and beloved elder statesman keeps the flame burning and the legacy of honest rock and roll alive, always true and beholden to his loyal fans.

**Reading, Listening and Viewing—see week five)**

**Audio and video playlist**

*Don’t Come Around Here No more*
*Learning to Fly*
*Into the Great Wide Open*
*(Tom Petty solo)*
*Free Fallin’*
*I Won’t Back Down*
*Mary Jane’s Last Dance*
*Runnin’ Down a Dream*
*A Face in the Crowd*
*You Wreck me*
*You Don’t Know How it Feels*
*Wildflowers*