Memphis Soul of the 1960’s
How Memphis soul put grit, grease and grace into American music.

The soul that came out of Memphis in the 1960’s transformed the landscape of popular music. It was rhythm and blues; it was rock and roll. It was the sound of the Deep South, the incredible voices that came from the black church, and the rhythms of the land. It was the vehicle to stardom for many. Its legacy has lasted more than 50 years and will live as long as people have a need to be nurtured by the soulful sounds of Stax-Volt, Otis Redding, Booker T and the MGs, Wilson Pickett, Sam and Dave, James Brown, Dusty Springfield, Aretha Franklin and many others. We will look at the careers of the giants of soul, the studios of Muscle Shoals, and the impact this genre has had on American music.

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It was the power of race-blind music in the able hands of Booker T. and the MGs. It was the big beat of crisp drums and the Fender bass guitar, mellow Wurlitzer electric pianos, soulful Hammond B-3 organs, brash horns, stinging Fender Telecaster guitars, testifying vocals, and the sanctity of the four-piece rhythm section. It was SOUL music. In this class we will look at the evolution of soul music, from late 1950’s Memphis through the success of Stax and Atlantic records. We will look at the careers of the giants of soul, the studios of Muscle Shoals, and the impact this genre has had on American music.

The course outline is as follows:

week one: The story of Stax-Volt records: Jim and Estelle Stewart; Rufus and Carla Thomas; the early Memphis music scene; Booker T. and the MGs.

week two: The "Big O;" the life and career of the great Otis Redding and how his music defined "soul."


week four: The titans of soul turn out timeless hits: Wilson Pickett, Sam&Dave

week five: Memphis South; Muscle Shoals Studios; Aretha and Dusty.

week six: "I feel good!" The awesomeness of James Brown, the Godfather of Soul
**Suggested reading, listening and viewing:**

**Reading:**
*Sweet Soul Music: Rhythm and Blues and the Southern Dream of Freedom,* by Peter Guralnick (1999)
*In the Midnight Hour: The Life & Soul of Wilson Pickett* by Tony Fletcher
*Dusty: An Intimate Portrait of a Musical Legend* by Karen Bartlett
*Kill 'Em and Leave: Searching for James Brown* by James McBride
*Aretha: From These Roots,* by David Ritz, 1999
*Respect: The Life of Aretha Franklin,* by David Ritz, 2015

**Listening:**
*Booker T. and the MGs: Green Onions*
*Booker T. and the MGs: Soul Dressing*
*Booker T. and the MGs: Hip Hug-Her*
*Otis Redding, Pain in My Heart* 1964
*Otis Blue, Otis Redding Sings Soul* 1965
*Otis Redding, Dock of the Bay* 1968
*The Immortal Otis Redding* 1968
*The Best of Sam and Dave*—21 great hits by the dynamic duo
*The Very Best of Wilson Pickett,* (Atlantic, 1993)
*Very Best of Dusty Springfield*
*Dusty in Memphis*
*Dusty Springfield, What Have I Done to Deserve This?* (with Pet Shop Boys)
*I Never Loved a Man the Way I Love You,* (Atlantic, 1967)
*Lady Soul,* Aretha Franklin, (Atlantic, 1967)
*Please, please,* 1958 James Brown, King Records
*Live at the Apollo, James Brown* (King, 1963)

**Viewing:**
*Otis Redding: Respect - Otis Live* (in Europe), dir. by D.A. Pennebaker (1967)
*Muscle Shoals* a film/DVD, directed by Greg Camalier (2013)
*Just Dusty* documentary (youtube)
*The TAMI Show,* 1964 (James Brown)
*Monterey Pop,* 1967 (Otis Redding)
*Stax Volt Revue,* Live in Norway 1967 (several artists)
*Blues Brothers,* 1980 (James Brown)
*Aretha Franklin: The Queen of Soul* |PBS American Masters documentary
In-class playlist of songs:

Week one:
CD #1: Sweet Soul Music—Arthur Conley
CD #2: Walkin’ the Dog—Rufus Thomas
CD #3: Jump Back—Rufus Thomas
video: Carla Thomas—teen town
CD #4: Night time is the right time—Rufus and Carla 1964
video: Carla Thomas b-a-b-y
CD #5: Gee Whiz—Carla Thomas
CD #6: Morning after—Mar-keys
video: Mar-keys: philly dog from Norway
CD #7: Hip hug her—Booker T and the MGs
CD #8: Hang em High—Booker T and the MGs
CD #9: Time is Tight—Booker T and the MGs
video: Booker T and the MGs, red beans/rice from Norway

Week two:
CD#1: That’s how strong my love is 1964
video: Meeting Otis, Steve Cropper
video: Mr. Pitiful live, with Steve Cropper 1965
CD#2: Wonderful World—1965—by Sam Cooke
CD#3: Ole Man Trouble—1965 by Otis—fade
CD#4: Change is gonna come—1965 by Sam Cooke
video: I Can't Turn You Loose w/ Steve Cropper by Otis
video: Fa fa fa from Norway 1967—by Otis
CD#5: Day Tripper—Live in Europe
video: Satisfaction at Monterey—by the Rolling Stones
CD#6: Tramp—1967—duet with Carla Thomas
video: Shake/Respect/I been lovin’ you too /Monterey 1967
CD#7: Dock of the Bay—1968—by Otis
CD#8: Hard to Handle—1968—by Otis
video: Jim Stewart on Try a little Tenderness
video: Try a little Tenderness
CD #9: Dreams to Remember

Week three:
CD #1—Dark End of the Street—James Carr
CD #2—A Man needs a Woman
CD #3 — Everyday will be like a holiday — William Bell
CD #4—You don't miss your water—William Bell
CD #5— Knock on Wood—Eddie Floyd
CD #6—Things get Better—Eddie Floyd
video: Raise your hand—Eddie Floyd
CD #7—I'll take you there— Staple Singers
video: Respect yourself—Staple Singers
video: the Weight—Staple Singers, from Last Waltz
CD #8—Soulfinger—Barkays
CD #9—Who’s makin’ love—Johnny Taylor
CD #10—Next time—Johnny Taylor
video: If loving you is wrong—Luther Ingram
CD #11—Same time same place—Mable John-
video: soulsville—Isaac Hayes

Week four:
CD #1— 99 ½ won’t do, 1965
CD #2—I Found a Love, 1962 Falcons
CD #3—If you need me 1962 Pickett
CD #4—Midnight Hour 1966, in E,
video: Everybody needs somebody to love
CD #5—634-5789, 1966—
video: Land of 1000 dances
video: I’m in love
CD #6—I’m a midnight mover 1968
CD #7—I found a love 1967 part two (!!)
CD #8—I take what I want
video: Stax #4—Hayes/Porter
CD #9—Hold on I’m Comin’
CD #10—You got me hummin’
CD #11—Soul Man
CD #12—Wrap it up
video: Soothe Me
video: You don’t know like I know

Week five:
CD #1—Tell Mama, Etta James 1967
video—Muscle shoals #1—has “When a Man” footage
CD #2—She’s Lookin’ Good—Pickett
CD #3—I’m your puppet—Purify Bros.
CD #4—Mustang Sally—Pickett
CD #5—Funky Broadway—Pickett
CD #6—Hey Jude—Pickett
video—Muscle shoals #3—Allman Brothers beginnings
CD #7—Never Loved a Man—Aretha
video—Dr. Feelgood—Do right woman
CD #8—Chain of Fools
play CD #9—since you’ve been gone 1968 by Aretha/Ted White
play CD #10—Ain’t no way, by Carolyn Franklin
play CD #11—Son of a Preacher Man
play CD #12—Breakfast in Bed
play CD #13—No easy way Down, by King/Goffin
play CD #14—So Much Love, by Goffin/King 1968
play CD #15—Just a little lovin’ by Mann/Weil

Week six:
CD #1—Papas got a brand new bag 1965
CD #2: Try Me 1958
CD #3: I’ll go Crazy 1963
CD #4: Lost someone 1963
video: TAMI show—out of sight 1964
CD #5: I got you/I feel good 1965
video: ain’t that a groove 1966
CD #6—Cold Sweat 1967
video: TAMI show—please please 1964
video: James Brown in Boston 1968 #1
video: James Brown in Boston 1968 #2
CD #7—say it loud, I’m black and I’m proud
CD #8—Lickin’ stick 1968
video: Kansas City, from Live at the Apollo 1968
video: Man’s World from 1971
video: TAMI show—Night Train