

LATER LIFE LEARNING

SERIES A: The Beatles and Their World

Mondays, 10:00 – 11:45 am, January 15 to March 26, 2018
No class February 19, 2018 for Reading Week

Innis College, Town Hall

Lecturer: *Dr. Mike Daley holds a Ph.D in music from York University, specializing in popular music. He has taught undergraduate courses at Guelph, McMaster, Waterloo and York Universities as well as acclaimed later-life courses at York, University of Toronto, Ryerson, George Brown, Learning Unlimited in Etobicoke and Lifelong Learning in Mississauga. He has published scholarly articles on American popular music in international journals and has been invited to speak at academic conferences from Normandy to Nashville.*

Overview:

This course will track the musical development of the Beatles, starting from the earliest days in Liverpool, moving through the excitement of Beatlemania, the rush of psychedelia, and the maturity of their studio years. While the focus will be on the music, we will also consider how recording techniques, the music business, the music of other artists, and the larger culture of the 1960s affected John, Paul, George, and Ringo as they created their classic works.

Weekly Schedule:

1. January 15: Background

We'll examine the family backgrounds and childhoods of the members of the Beatles, as well as the larger backdrop of postwar Liverpool. Their formative cultural influences, from Elvis and Lonnie Donegan to the Goon Show, will also be covered.

2. January 22: The Early Beatles

From the formation of John Lennon's teenage band The Quarrymen, through early club dates in Liverpool and Hamburg, we'll look at the evolution of the Beatles before fame.

3. January 29: Hamburg and Liverpool Stardom

An extended engagement in Hamburg, Germany sparked something in the young Beatles, and their rise was rapid from this point. We'll take the story up to their signing with EMI and first few singles.

4. February 5: Beatlemania in England

The Beatles conquered England in 1963 after "Please Please Me" went to #1 on the charts. The phenomenon dubbed as "Beatlemania" followed.

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5. February 12: Beatlemania and the World

The Beatles conquered the U.S.A., Canada and the rest of much of the world in 1964. In this class we'll track the halcyon days of world Beatlemania, including their first appearance on the Ed Sullivan show and first film, *A Hard Day's Night*.

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6. February 26: Recasting Popular Music - 1965

In 1965, the Beatles rewrote the rules of rock and roll music, particularly in the recording studio. We'll discuss their rapid artistic evolution in this period.

7. March 5: New Directions - 1966

In 1966, the Beatles continued their experimentation in the recording studio and stopped touring. We'll look in detail at their epochal album *Revolver*.

8. March 12: Peak of Creativity - 1967

With their innovative 1967 recordings, including "Strawberry Fields Forever" and the *Sgt. Pepper* album, the Beatles sealed their position at the top of pop music. But the sudden death of their manager, Brian Epstein, in August 1967 threw the band into organizational turmoil.

9. March 19: Dark Clouds - 1968

1968 saw the Beatles creating a sprawling double album and starting their own company, Apple. While their success continued with hits like "Hey Jude," relations within the group were becoming strained and the band was looking for a new direction.

10. March 26: The Breakup - 1969-70

The ill-fated *Get Back* film project was an attempt to return to form, but inter-band relations were in decline, aided by drug abuse and simmering personal resentments. The final breakup was acrimonious and played out over years in the courts. In the wake of their breakup, the individual Beatles began their solo careers. We'll discuss these later years and the Beatles' legacy today.