Course Title: The Beatles: Four Extraordinary Albums That Transformed Pop Music
Course Code: WSP 144
Instructor: Dr. Joel Phillip Friedman

Grade Options and Requirements:
- No Grade Requested (NGR)
  - This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit will be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
  - Students must attend all class sessions.

*Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose the Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.

Tentative Weekend Outline:

We will explore the craft of songwriting, the instruments and technology used, and what makes these albums superb and unique.

Saturday, April 25, 2020

10-12:30

*Please Please Me (1963):* After their first single, “Love Me Do,” reached the UK Top 20, the Beatles were tasked with recording most of the album *Please Please Me* in one grueling, infamous twelve-plus-hour day at EMI (now Abbey Road) Studios. We will reconstruct one of the most famous days in all Beatles’ history: track-by-track, hour-by-hour! **Listening:** *Please Please Me* (2009 Remaster) complete LP.

1:30-4

*A Hard Day’s Night (1964),* was the group’s first album of all original songs and captured the height of Beatlemania as the band members’ interests began to diverge from performance to songwriting. Even the two sides of the LP diverge in tone, purpose, and complexity. We will dig into recording session outtakes squeezed in-between touring and filming and explore how the still-young band grew at a phenomenal rate as songwriters and recording artists. **Listening:** *A Hard Day’s Night* (2009 Remaster) complete LP (Optional *Criterion Collection* movie).
Sunday, April 26, 2020

10-12:30

_Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band_ (1967) is often considered to be the first “concept album.” We will investigate whether that is true. Regardless, _Pepper_ is a brilliant recording never meant to be performed live, it is a _studio_ creation, painstakingly pieced together over many months, straining the technological limits of Abbey Road, their producer, George Martin, and his team. The album’s release put to rest fevered rumors of the post-touring Beatles breakup. We will explore their recording process through outtakes made available - in pristine condition - on the 2017 box set. **Listening:** _Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band_ (2009 Remaster or, optionally, the 2017 Remix) complete LP, plus single _Penny Lane/Strawberry Fields Forever_ (found on _Magical Mystery Tour_ 2009 Remaster and the 2017 _Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band Remix_).

1:30-4

_The Beatles_ (1968) was a bold, unprecedented, and messy double album nicknamed “The White Album” (TWA). It is a veritable encyclopedia of songwriting style and structure. The first album on their new Apple label, it marked the end of their psychedelic period, the introduction of Yoko Ono, and demonstrated the growing adverse effects their business endeavors had on the band’s relationships and their creative collaborative process. The well-known stories of strife and unhappiness during the long recording sessions have impacted the album’s reputation and overshadowed its excellence. Recent scholarship, and the 2018 box set, have highlighted both the album’s artistic brilliance, and the many previously unknown moments of warmth and collaboration during in its creation. **Listening:** _The Beatles_ (2009 Remaster or optional 2018 Remix) complete LP, plus single _Hey Jude/Revolution_ (found on _Past Masters_ 2009 Remaster).