Preliminary Syllabus
MUS 20: The Poetry and Songs of Leonard Cohen
Instructor, T. Hampton

First Meeting, Oct 11: “Remember me, I used to live for music.”


Themes: flesh and spirit, the identity of the singing voice, abjection and humiliation.

Second Meeting, Oct 18: “It’s four in the morning, the end of December.”

Key Songs: “Famous Blue Raincoat,” “Joan of Arc,” “Who by Fire,” “A Singer Must Die,” “Take This Longing,” “Dress Rehearsal Rag.”

Themes: limits of power, self-doubt, drugs, self-purification, betrayal.

Third Meeting, Oct 25: “I will speak no more, till I am spoken for.”

Key Songs: “If It Be Your Will,” “Hallelujah,” “Coming Back to You.”
Jennifer Warnes, *Famous Blue Raincoat*.

Themes: Humility, divinity, Impotence.
Fourth Meeting, Nov. 1: “I was born like this, I had no choice.”
Cohen Returns. The importance of the keyboard. New production values.

Key Songs: “I’m your man,” “First we take Manhattan,” “Take this Waltz,”
“Tower of Song,” “The Future,” “Democracy,” “Waiting for the
Miracle,” “Closing Time,” “Anthem.”

Themes: Political commentary, prophecy, exoticism.

Fifth Meeting, Nov. 8: “So, we’ll go no more a-roving.”
Cohen expands his formal range: poetry and song, collaboration, song

Key Songs: “Alexandra Leaving,” “A Thousand Kisses Deep.”


Sixth Meeting, Nov. 15: “I want it slow.”
You Want it Darker. Thanks for the Dance.*


**Note About Live Attendance and Recording:**
Live attendance is encouraged. The instructor will present the material, illustrating
points with samples of sound and, where needed, images. The syllabus will offer a
general template, but we will feel free to roam about, as the discussion evolves.

At the same time, classes will be recorded and made available for enrolled students
to watch or re-watch what they have missed live.

**Grade Options and Requirements:**
- No Grade Requested (NGR)
  - This is the default option. No work will be required; No credit
  shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
• Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
  o Students must attend at least 5 out of 6 live class meetings.

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