

LP² STUDY GROUP PROPOSAL FOR FALL 2022

**YOU SAY YOU WANT A REVOLUTION –
THE BEATLES AND THE SOUNDTRACK OF THE SIXTIES**

Coordinators: Barry Bryer and Randy Ross

The music and message of The Beatles affected the social, political and cultural life of America and the world in the 1960s and beyond. This study group will examine their artistry and its impact on their generation and on the US from the time of their visit in 1964. We will reflect on one of the most turbulent and consequential decades in American history - from Kennedy to Nixon, from Vietnam to the moon, from Civil Rights to civil unrest, assassinations and more.

Barry Bryer is a retired corporate lawyer. He has coordinated the study group “Guns in America.” As an active participant in the political events of the 1960’s, he believes that The Beatles were not only a musical phenomenon of that decade but also a major influence on the culture and growth of a generation. **Randy Ross** has coordinated several study groups on the topics of word play, podcasting, sports literature, and the music of Paul Simon. Like many, he has been a Beatle super-fan since he heard his first “Yeah, Yeah, Yeah” in 1964.

Type of Study Group: A combination of listening, reading and discussion

Readings and other Materials/Online Services:

The Beatles and the 1960s by Kenneth L. Campbell, (Bloomsbury Academic 2022, Amazon \$29.95, Kindle \$14.95);

Links for online listening to be sent each week via email by coordinators.

***** **SYLLABUS - A WORK IN PROGRESS** *****

WEEK 1

TOPIC: America before The Beatles

READING:

Chapter 1 (Postwar Britain, American Rock and Roll, The Birth of The Beatles)

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LISTENING:

Elvis (“Don’t Be Cruel”, “Hounddog”), The Isley Brothers (“Twist and Shout”), Chuck Berry (“Johnny B. Goode”), Little Richard (“Dizzy Miss Lizzie”), Marvellettes (“Please Mr. Postman”)

QUESTIONS:

How would you describe America’s cultural, political, and social atmosphere during the Eisenhower years? What was the impact, particularly for the young, of the election of JFK and his assassination? What was popular music like in America pre-Beatles?

WEEK 2

TOPIC: The Beatles arrive

READING: pp. 41-61

LISTENING:

Albums: *Meet the Beatles*, *Beatles 65*

QUESTIONS:

What was the impact of *The Ed Sullivan Show* appearance? What was different and attractive about The Beatles? How did the older generation respond to them? What did the election of 1964 indicate about the mood of America?

WEEK 3

TOPIC: The Beatles on Tour/The Civil Rights movement

READING: pp. 61-76

LISTENING:

“Beatles Number Ones—Part 1,” “Blackbird,” covers of Black artists (e.g., Little Richard, Chuck Berry)

QUESTIONS:

How did Black music influence The Beatles? How did the Civil Rights movement divide 1960s America? What was the impact of the murder of the three Freedom Riders?

WEEK 4

TOPIC: The Beatles on film--*A Hard Day’s Night*, *Help!* /
The Vietnam War looms larger

WEEK 5

TOPIC: *Rubber Soul*—the hair gets longer and the music changes/
The sexual revolution, women’s rights

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WEEK 6

TOPIC: *Revolver/*

Experimentation, drugs, and psychedelics

WEEK 7

TOPIC: *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band/*

Parents and children, Vietnam, the draft and protests

WEEK 8

TOPIC: *Magical Mystery Tour, All You Need is Love/*

Meditation, flower power and self-improvement

WEEK 9

TOPIC: *The White Album/*

America in turmoil—1968 MLK, RFK, riots, the Chicago convention

WEEK 10

TOPIC: *Let It Be/*

The moon landing and the election of Nixon

WEEK 11

TOPIC: *Abbey Road/*

Activism, the meaning of Woodstock, the silent majority in charge

WEEK 12

TOPIC: The breakup and The Beatles' legacy/

Watergate, ending the war, how America changed with The Beatles