

55 years of country-rock, 1965-present:

Creating a new American musical genre--how two immensely popular genres of music merged to create a timeless style, uniquely American in every aspect.

This eight-week class will cover the historically significant country-rock movement which started in LA in 1965 and spread across the country, changing the musical landscape of popular music. We will explore how two roots-oriented genres--country music and rock and roll--borrowed from each other and merged to create a new genre which has since spawned many sub-genres, each with its own unique approach to country-rock. We will look at several artists and their key albums, including: The Everly Brothers, The Byrds, the Buffalo Springfield, Gram Parsons, the Flying Burrito Brothers, Crosby, Stills and Nash, Neil Young, Poco, the new Riders of the Purple Sage, Pure Prairie League, Rick Nelson, the Eagles, Linda Ronstadt, Emmylou Harris and others, as well as trends in instruments, arrangements and lyric-writing that made up the songs.

Course Outline:

WEEK ONE: *What is country-rock?* An in-depth look at the first country-rockers: The lives and career of the legendary Everly Brothers.

Listening:

The Everly Brothers, 1957, Cadence

Songs Our Daddy Taught Us, 1958, Cadence

It's Everly Time, 1960, Warner Brothers

A Date with the Everly Brothers, 1960, Warners

The Everly Brothers Sing Great Country Hits, 1963, Warners

The Everly Brothers Live in Paris 1963, Big Beat records

The Best of The Everly Brothers, 1959, Cadence

15 Everly Hits, 1963, Cadence

Reading:

The Everly Brothers: Walk Right Back, 1998, Roger White

Viewing:

Harmonies from heaven, DVD, 2016

The Everly Brothers Reunion Concert, from London, 1983, DVD

Playlist for this class:

CD#1 --When Will I be Loved-- Everly Brothers 1960

video #1—Long time gone—1958 from Songs Our daddy taught us

video#2 —Bye Bye Love--Everly Brothers 1957

CD#2 —Wake up Little Susie--Everly Brothers 1957

videos #3 and #4—All I Have to do is Dream—Everlys 1958 Cathy's Clown--1960 (from UK concert 1960)

video#5 --Walk Right Back—1961/video from 1969 EBI concert

CD#3 —Bird Dog--Everly Brothers—1958

CD#4 --Devoted to You-- Everly Brothers 1958

CD#5--Till I Kissed You— Everly Brothers 1959

video#6 —Problems--Everly Brothers—1958

CD#6 --Crying in the Rain--Everly Brothers 1961

play video #7—rip it up from Shindig 1964

play CD#7--Let it be Me— Everly Brothers 1960

WEEK TWO: *Country becomes cool:* How the seminal country-rock of Los Angeles spread like wildfire across the country. The Byrds and the Buffalo Springfield make their marks with folk-rock, country rock, and psychedelic rock.

Listening:

Mr. Tambourine Man: The Byrds, 1965 Columbia

Turn, turn, turn: The Byrds, 1965

Buffalo Springfield, Buffalo Springfield 1966 ATCO

Buffalo Springfield, Buffalo Springfield Again 1967 ATCO

Buffalo Springfield, Lsat Time Around, 1968

The Notorious Byrd Brothers, 1968 Columbia

Reading:

Desperados: The Roots of Country Rock, by John Einarson 2001

Viewing:

Woodstock, dir. by Michael Wadleigh (1970)

Playlist for this class:

CD #1--Mr. Tambourine man, Byrds 1965

CD #2--Feel a whole lot better, Byrds 1965, with Tele live

CD #3—All I Really Want to do

CD#4—Chimes of Freedom

CD#5—Satisfied mind, from 2nd album

video #1—turn, turn, turn, Byrds 1966

live—For what it's worth

CD #6--Go and say Goodbye, Buffalo Springfield 1966

CD#7—Sit down I think I love you

CD#8 --Nowadays Clancy Can't Even Sing

CD #9--Child's Claim to Fame, Buffalo Springfield 1967

CD#10—Bluebird

CD#11--Kind Woman, Buffalo Springfield 1967

CD#12--On the Way home, Buffalo Springfield 1968

CD#13—I am a child

WEEK THREE: *Pickup trucks and pot: The redneck hippie prince of country-rock:* Gram Parsons joins the Byrds, and helps them record the definitive country-rock album, Sweetheart of the Rodeo.

Listening:

Fifth Dimension (1966)

Younger Than Yesterday (1967)

Sweetheart of the Rodeo, 1968 Columbia—all of it!

Reading:

Timeless Flight: The Definitive Biography of the Byrds 3rd Edition, 1991, by Johnny Rogan

Viewing:

David Crosby; Remember My name, 2019

The Byrds under review 2007

Echoes in the Canyon 2018

Playlist for this class:

CD #1--You ain't goin' nowhere, Byrds 1968

CD #2—Mr. Spaceman, Byrds 1966
CD #3—Eight Miles High 1966
CD#4—So You wanna be a rock and roll star 1966
CD #5—My Back Pages, Byrds 1967
CD #6—Goin’ Back Byrds, 1967
video #1—Wasn’t Born to Follow, Byrds, from Easy Rider 196
CD #7—Christian Life, Byrds 1968
CD #8—Hickory Wind, Byrds 1968
CD#9—Wild Horses (short version)
CD #10—You’re still on my mind 1968
video #2—Pretty Boy Floyd, with Roger McGuinn 2012
CD #11—Drugstore truck-drivin’ man 1969
CD#12—Chestnut Mare--1970
CD#13—Lover of the Bayou--1970

WEEK FOUR: Gram Parsons forms the Flying Burrito Brothers, goes solo, and checks out at the age of 26.

Listening

The Gilded Palace of Sin, The Flying Burrito brothers, 1969 A&M

Burrito Deluxe 1970 A&M

GP, Gram Parsons 1973

Grievous Angel, Gram Parsons, 1974 (released posthumously) Reprise

Viewing:

Return to Sin City - A Tribute to Gram Parsons (2005)

Reading:

Twenty Thousand Roads: The Ballad of Gram Parsons and his cosmic American Music, by David Meyer 2008

Calling me Home: Gram Parsons the Roots of Country Rock, Bob Kealing, 2012

Playlist for this class:

video clip #1—Fallen angel #1(from the documentary film of the same name)

CD #1--Wheels, Burritos brothers

video clip #2—Christine’s Tune (Devil in Disguise) Burritos 1969

CD #2, Sin City, Burritos brothers

CD#3—High Fashion Queen, Burritos brothers

CD#4—Image of Me

CD #5—That’s all it took, Gram Parsons/Emmylou from GP 1973

video clip #3—Fallen angel #2

CD #6--Return of the Grievous Angel, from Grievous Angel 1974

video clip #4—Fallen angel #3

CD#7 Hearts on Fire, from Grievous Angel

CD #8 —Ooh Las Vegas, Gram, from Grievous Angel

CD#9—Sleepless Nights, from Grievous Angel

video clip #5—Fallen angel #4

WEEK FIVE: The superstars move in: Crosby, Stills, Nash—and Neil Young

Listening:

Crosby, Stills and Nash, 1st album

Crosby, Stills and Nash, Déjà Vu
Neil Young 1st album
Neil Young, Everybody Know this is Nowhere
Neil Young, After the gold Rush
Neil Young, Harvest
Neil Young: Long may you run

Reading:

Waging Heavy Peace: A Hippie Dream, by Neil Young
Shakey: Neil Young's Biography, by Jimmy McDonough

Viewing:

Echoes in the Canyon 2018
Year of the horse `1997
Last Waltz 1978
Rust never Sleeps 1979

Playlist for this class:

CD #1—Emperor of Wyoming, Neil Young
video #1—*Suite Judy blue eyes, CSN from Woodstock 1969*
CD #2-- You Don't Have To Cry, CSN
CD #3-- Helplessly Hoping, Crosby, Stills & Nash
CD #4—49 Bye Byes
play video #2—*Marrakech Express, CSN*
CD #5—Teach your children, CSN 1970
CD #6—Everybody Knows This Is Nowhere, Neil Young
Live—Losin' End (Neil Young) guitar in G
video #3--*Last Waltz. Helpless, from Déjà vu, Neil Young*
CD #7-- Only Love Can Break Your Heart, Neil, with piano
CD #8---I Believe in You
CD #9—Heart of Gold Neil Young
CD#10—Long May You Run

WEEK SIX: *The mid 1970's brings the second wave of country-rock; style and innovation:* Poco, New Riders of the Purple Sage, Pure Prairie League, Rick Nelson

Listening:

Poco, Picking up the Pieces, 1969 Epic
Poco, Poco, 1970 Epic
Nashville Skyline, Bob Dylan, 1969, Columbia
New Riders of the Purple Sage: New Riders of the Purple Sage 1971 Columbia
Bustin' Out, Pure Prairie League, 1972 RCA

Reading:

Pickin' Up the Pieces: The Heart and Soul of Country Rock Pioneer Richie Furay, by Michael Roberts, 2012.

Playlist for this class:

CD #1-- Pickin' Up the Pieces, Poco
CD #2—Consequently So Long, Poco
CD #3—You Better Think Twice, Poco
CD #4--Honky Tonk Downstairs, Poco

CD #5—Crazy Love, Poco
CD #6--Last Lonely Eagle, New Riders of Purple Sage
CD #7—Glendale Train, New Riders of Purple Sage
CD #8—Panama Red, New Riders of Purple Sage
CD #9 Amie, Pure Prairie League
CD #10—Fallin in and out of love, Pure Prairie League
CD #11—Boulder Skies, Pure Prairie League
video #1— Hello Mary Lou – Ricky Nelson 1958
video #2—She belongs to me Rick Nelson 1969
video #3— Garden Party—Rick Nelson 1972

WEEK SEVEN: The two women who did the most to define country-rock; Linda Ronstadt and Emmylou Harris. In this class we look at these incredibly versatile and talented singers; appreciating an artist who ran the gamut from folk and country to rock, pop and beyond, and another who has been the soul, conscience and spirit of the genre for 45 years, both of whom have made a lasting impression on American music. With a shout-out to Rodney Crowell.

Listening

Linda Ronstadt, Linda Ronstadt, 1972 Capitol
Heart Like a Wheel, Linda Ronstadt, 1974, Capitol
Emmylou Harris, Pieces of the Sky, 1975, Warner Brothers
Emmylou Harris: Luxury Liner, 1978
Rodney Crowell, Diamonds and Dirt, 1988

Reading:

Simple Dreams, a musical memoir, by Linda Ronstadt, 2013
Emmylou Harris: Angel In Disguise Paperback –2004, by Jim Brown

Viewing:

Linda Ronstadt: The Sound of my own voice, feature film, 2019
The Last Waltz, 1978

Playlist for this class:

CD#1--Silver Threads, Linda Ronstadt
CD #2—Desperado 1973
video #1—When will I be loved 1974
CD #3—Willin' 1974
video #2 Blue Bayou
CD#4 Adios, Linda Ronstadt with Brian Wilson
video #3--I can't help it with/Emmylou Harris 1974
CD #5—Bluebird wine
video #3--Boulder/Birmingham Lost Highway/Emmylou
CD #6—If I could only win your love
video#4 : Rodney Crowell: I couldn't leave you if I tried, 1988
CD#7: Emmylou/Rodney: Back when we were beautiful 2013
video #5—Evangeline/Last Waltz
CD#8—Queen of the Silver Dollar

WEEK EIGHT: *The Boys of Summer: The incredible legacy of The Eagles:*
How four guys from all over the USA became America's most popular band ever.

Listening:

The Eagles, the Eagles, 1972 Asylum

Desperado, the Eagles, 1973 Asylum

On The Border, the Eagles, 1974 Asylum

One of these Nights, the Eagles, 1975 Asylum

Hotel California, the Eagles, 1976, Asylum

Cass County, Don Henley, 2015, Capitol

Reading:

Eagles: Taking It to the Limit, by Ben Fong-Torres, 2011

Viewing:

Hell Freezes Over DVD 1994

History of the Eagles documentary DVD 2013

Playlist for this class:

CD#1 Take it Easy

video clip #1 from History of the Eagles —Glenn, Don

video clip #2 Peaceful easy Feeling

CD#2 Tequila Sunrise

CD#3 Already Gone

CD#4 Best of my Love

CD#5 One of these Nights

CD#6 Hollywood Waltz

video clip #3 Take it to the limit

CD#7 Lyin' Eyes—big analysis

CD#8 Seven Bridges Road

video clip #4 from History

video clip #5 from History –Hotel California

CD#8 The Last Resort

video clip #6—from History--How Long