London: The British Invasion, Arts, and Culture.

Instructor: Mr. John C. Reid
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Office hours: By appointment.

Day(s), time(s) and location of pre-departure classes: August 19, 20, 24, 2020.

Out of class activities


Learning resources: required readings, textbooks and materials

- Articles in Grove Music Online via U/C library catalogue.
- Assigned listenings via Spotify. List to be posted in D2L.

Prerequisites: None.

Course description

This Group Study Program will explore current and historical aspects of the rich musical and cultural life of London, England with an emphasis on various and diverse emphases reflecting the myriad of cultural choices available in this most cosmopolitan of world cities.

“The British Invasion.” American blues music of the 20th century influenced musical trends in Great Britain spawning an explosion of rock and pop music in that country, which resulted in a countercultural migration to the United States and beyond in the mid 1960s with bands like the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, and many others. Students will have the opportunity to investigate and experience vestiges of this phenomenon directly during their London experience.

Arts and Culture. There is a vast array of choices in music to explore in London in pop, jazz, classical, sacred, world music, musical theatre, and blues, as well as art galleries galore — many of them free.

Among some of the choices that will be picked by the Instructor to explore are: City tour, West End musical theatre, National Gallery, London Rock Legends Tour, Royal Academy of Music Museum, jam session night at the iconic Ronnie Scott’s jazz club, Tate & Tate Modern Galleries, Ain’t Nothin’ But the Blues club, free noon hour concerts at St. Martin in the Fields, Handel and Hendrix in London Museum, Honest Jon’s Records in Notting Hill, Fat Tire Bicycle tour, the Musical Museum, shooting locations of London’s most famous albums, Camden Market, Spice of Life rock club in Soho, Horniman musical instrument Museum, Abbey Road, Royal Albert Hall, Victoria and Albert Museum, Southbank Centre, the 100 Club, London Rock Walks tour, the original Hard Rock Café, London Contemporary Orchestra, Kew Gardens, Wilton’s Music Hall, Greenwich Observatory and the Meridian Line, walk up to the viewpoint of St. Paul’s Cathedral, National Portrait Gallery, Royal Opera House, Globe Theatre, the Beatles store, Soho walking tour, British Museum, Covent Garden, the Barbican, National Theatre, Portobello Road market, Carnaby Street, 24 bus from Pimlico to Hampstead Heath, choral evensong at St. Paul’s Cathedral.
Accommodation will be situated in a comfortable neighbourhood and after a short time, students will come to feel that they are local residents at home in their environment. They will find that they can navigate well by walking, using the Tube, and taxicabs if need be. This is a valuable international opportunity for students, and is a very safe excursion for some of them who are first-time travellers away from home on their own.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the completion of this course, successful students will be able to:

1. Recognize instruments and elements of pop music song construction.
2. Appreciate some aspects of other music genres such as classical music and jazz.
3. Identify musically significant London musicians and their geographical contexts in that city.
4. Journal their London experiences in context of “The British Invasion” and other important aspects of that city’s musical Arts and broader Culture.
5. Appreciate West End London musical theatre performances.
6. Make a site visit to a location or event of London culture and write a term paper on that topic contextualizing the student’s own experience there in terms of academic literature, scholarly writing, and informed opinion reviewed/discovered in substantial research.
7. Successfully navigate the geography of London.
8. Describe several of London’s major attractions, music venues, musical and cultural aspects of “The British Invasion,” musicians, museums, restaurants, and retail outlets.
9. Be a positive contributor to harmonious group equilibrium.

Grading

Term Paper Annotated Bibliography                                      10%
Group synoptic music reviews of four music venue visits           30%
Term Paper on one aspect of NYC culture (2500 words**)          30%
Journal of the trip                                                  30%

**2500 words; Groups of two students: 2750 words; Groups of three students: 3000 words. Duplication of topics is not permitted. Advance Annotated Bibliography and plan is required for approval pre-departure, due date: November 28, 2018, start of class.

Grading scale:

A+ = 95%, A = 90%, A- = 85%, B+ = 80%, B = 75%, B- = 70%, C+ = 65%,
C = 60%, C- = 55%, D = 50%, F = 49% and below.