

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Clifton welcomes members of the media to sit in on his class as part of their coverage, but arrangements should be made in advance to minimize disruption to the syllabus schedule and the students' learning process. The best days for media visitation are July 25, July 26, July 27, July 30 or Aug. 1.

July 24, 2007

CMU summer course exploring music, legacy of The Beatles

MOUNT PLEASANT — For most college classes, the study materials consist mainly of textbooks and journals, but students in one Central Michigan University summer course can add such albums as “Rubber Soul,” “Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band” and “Abbey Road” to that list.

“The Beatles: An Interdisciplinary Mystery Tour,” a graduate-level course in CMU's School of Music, will offer an academically intense, two-week journey through The Beatles’ celebrated catalog and career. Taught by associate professor of music Keith Clifton, the course — which coincides with the 40th anniversary of the “Summer of Love” and will include related themes — began July 23 and runs through Aug. 2.

“The Beatles are possibly the most significant rock and roll group in the history of popular music,” Clifton wrote in the course syllabus. “This course will examine their important role in the development of rock and their continuing cultural influence. We will consider such topics as Beatlemania, The Beatles and world music, references to classical styles, and myths surrounding the group.”

Students will learn about the group and its lasting impact on music and popular culture through discussions regarding listening and reading assignments, in-class viewings of Beatles movie clips and other footage, and the completion of a comprehensive paper and accompanying presentation analyzing a particular issue or theme related to the group.

“I treat the class with the same seriousness as a class on Mozart or Beethoven, but we also will have a lot of fun as well,” said Clifton.

A dozen students are enrolled in the course.

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