As part of the class, we will be investigating the Beatles’ songs during the 1965-67 period both through lecture and through seminar-style discussion. Attached are the 12 songs we’ll be focusing on through the group discussion. Don’t listen to the songs beforehand, but do have these lyrics nearby you when we’re discussing them (either by printing them or having them electronically displayed on a laptop). We’ll be referring to these lyrics as part of our larger discussion on their unique constructions. The songs are:

1. **“Norwegian Wood (This Bird Has Flown)”** (1965), written primarily by John Lennon for the *Rubber Soul* album
2. **“Girl”** (1965), written primarily by John Lennon for *Rubber Soul*
3. **“Taxman”** (1966), written by George Harrison for the *Revolver* album
4. **“Eleanor Rigby”** (1966), written primarily by Paul McCartney for the *Revolver* album
5. **“I’m Only Sleeping”** (1966), written primarily by John Lennon for the *Revolver* album
6. **“Tomorrow Never Knows”** (1966), written primarily by John Lennon for the *Revolver* album
7. **“Paperback Writer”** (1966), written primarily by Paul McCartney as a stand-alone single (B-side, for those curious, is the equally brilliant “Rain” written primarily by John Lennon)
8. **“Getting Better”** (1967), written primarily by Paul McCartney for the *Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band* album
9. **“She’s Leaving Home”** (1967), written primarily by Paul McCartney for *Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band*
10. **“When I’m Sixty-Four”** (1967), written primarily by Paul McCartney for *Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band*
11. **“A Day in the Life”** (1967), written in a rare post-1964 collaboration between John Lennon (who wrote the 1st part, the 3rd part, and the music) and Paul McCartney (who wrote the middle) for *Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band*
12. **“Strawberry Fields Forever”** (1967), written primarily by John Lennon as a double-A-sided single (the other side being “Penny Lane”) and released on the U.S. version of the *Magical Mystery Tour* LP.

**“NORWEGIAN WOOD (THIS BIRD HAS FLOWN)”**

written by John Lennon and Paul McCartney

Album Cut from *Rubber Soul* (1965)

[Guitar and Sitar Intro]

[Verse 1]

I once had a girl

Or should I say

She once had me.

She showed me her room,

Isn’t it good

Norwegian wood?

[Bridge 1]

She asked me to stay and she told me to sit anywhere

So I looked around and I noticed there wasn’t a chair.

[Verse 2]

I sat on the rug

Biding my time

Drinking her wine.

We talked until two

And then she said:

“It’s time for bed.”

[Sitar Reprise]

[Bridge 2]

She told me she worked in the morning and started to laugh.

I told her I didn’t and crawled out to sleep in the bath.

[Verse 3]

And when I awoke

I was alone

This bird had flown.

So I light a fire

Isn’t it good

Norwegian wood?

[Sitar Outro]

**“GIRL”**

written by John Lennon and Paul McCartney

Album Cut from *Rubber Soul* (1965)

Is there anybody going to listen to my story

All about the girl that came to stay?

She’s the kind of girl you want so much it makes you sorry

Still you don’t regret a single day.

Ah girl…girl, girl.

When I think of all the times I’ve tried so hard to leave her

She will turn to me and start to cry.

And she promises the Earth to me, and I believe her

After all this time, I don’t know why.

Ah girl…girl, girl.

She’s the kind of girl who’ll put you down when friends are there—you feel a fool. (tit-tit-tit…)

When you say she’s lookin’ good, she acts as if it’s understood—she’s cool (tit-tit-tit…)

Ooo, ooo, ooo, ooo (tit-tit-tit…)

Girl

Girl, girl.

Was she told when she was young that pain would lead to pleasure?

Did she understand it when they said:

That a man must break his back to earn his day of leisure

Will she still believe it when he’s dead?

Ah girl…girl, girl.

**“TAXMAN”**

written by George Harrison

Album Cut from *Revolver* (1966)

Let me tell you how it will be

There’s 1 for you, 19 for me

’Cause I’m the taxman

Yeah, yeah, I’m the taxman

Should 5 percent appear too small?

Be thankful I don’t take it all

’Cause I’m the taxman

Yeah, yeah, I’m the taxman

(If you drive a car, car…) I’ll tax the street

(If you try to sit, sit…) I’ll tax your seat

(If you get too cold, cold…) I’ll tax the heat

(If you take a walk, walk…) I’ll tax your feet

Taxman!

[Guitar Solo]

’Cause I’m the taxman

Yeah, yeah, I’m the taxman

Don’t ask me what I want it for (Ha! Ha! Mr. Wilson!)

If you don’t want to pay some more (Ha! Ha! Mr. Heath!)

’Cause I’m the taxman

Yeah, yeah, I’m the taxman

Now my advice for those who die (taxman!)

Declare the pennies on your eyes (taxman!)

’Cause I’m the taxman

Yeah, yeah, I’m the taxman

And you’re working for no one but me. (Taxman!)

[Guitar Solo to Fade]

**“ELEANOR RIGBY”**

written by John Lennon and Paul McCartney

Single from *Revolver* (1966)

[Hook]

Ah! look at all the lonely people.

Ah! look at all the lonely people.

[Verse 1]

Eleanor Rigby picks up the rice in the church where a wedding has been

Lives in a dream.

Waits at the window, wearing the face that she keeps in a jar by the door

Who is it for?

[Chorus 1]

All the lonely people

Where do they all come from?

All the lonely people

Where do they all belong?

[Verse 2]

Father McKenzie, writing the words of a sermon that no one will hear

No one comes near.

Look at him working: darning his socks in the night when there’s nobody there

What does he care?

[Chorus 2]

All the lonely people

Where do they all come from?

All the lonely people

Where do they all belong?

[Hook]

Ah! look at all the lonely people.

Ah! look at all the lonely people.

[Verse 3]

Eleanor Rigby died in the church and was buried along with her name

Nobody came.

Father McKenzie wiping the dirt from his hands as he walks from the grave

No one was saved.

[Chorus/Hook]

All the lonely people (Ah! look at all the lonely people)

Where do they all come from?

All the lonely people (Ah! look at all the lonely people)

Where do they all belong?

**“I’M ONLY SLEEPING”**

Written by John Lennon and Paul McCartney

Album Cut from *Revolver* (1966)

When I wake up early in the morning

Lift my head, I’m still yawning

When I’m in the middle of a dream

Stay in bed, float upstream… (float upstream)

Please don’t wake me

No, don’t shake me

Leave me where I am

I’m only sleeping

Everybody seems to think I’m lazy

I don’t mind, I think they’re crazy

Running everywhere at such a speed

Till they find that there’s no need (there’s no need)

Please don’t spoil my day

I’m miles away

And after all

I’m only sleeping

Keepin’ an eye on the world goin’ by my window

Takin’ my time

Lying there and staring at the ceiling

Waiting for a sleepy feeling…

[Backwards Guitar Solo]

Please don’t spoil my day

I’m miles away

And after all

I’m only sleeping

Keepin’ an eye on the world goin’ by my window

Takin’ my time

When I wake up early in the morning

Lift my head, I’m still yawning

When I’m in the middle of a dream

Stay in bed, float upstream (float upstream)

Please don’t wake me

No, don’t shake me

Leave me where I am

I’m only sleeping

**“TOMORROW NEVER KNOWS”**

written by John Lennon and Paul McCartney

Album Cut from *Revolver* (1966)

Turn off your mind, relax, and float downstream

It is not dying, it is not dying

Lay down all thought, surrender to the Void

It is shining, it is shining

That you may see the meaning of Within

It is being, it is being

That love is all and love is Everyone

It is knowing, it is knowing

That ignorance and hate may mourn the Dead

It is believing, it is believing

But listen to the colour of your dreams

It is not living, it is not living

Or play the game Existence to the end

Of the beginning, of the beginning….

**“PAPERBACK WRITER”** (written by John Lennon and Paul McCartney) (Single [1966])

Dear sir or madam, will you read my book?

It took me years to write, will you take a look?

It’s based on a novel by a man named Lear

And I need a job, so I wanna be a paperback writer….

It’s a dirty story of a dirty man

And his clinging wife doesn’t understand

His son is working for the *Daily Mail*

It’s a steady job, but he wants to be a paperback writer…

It’s a thousand pages, give or take a few

I’ll be writing more in a week or two

I could make it longer if you like the style

I can change it ’round, and I want to be a paperback writer…

If you really like it, you can have the rights

It could make a million for you overnight

If you must return, you can send it here

But I need a break, and I wanna be a paperback writer…

**“GETTING BETTER”**

written by John Lennon and Paul McCartney

Album Cut from *Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band* (1967)

(It’s getting better all the time)

I used to get mad at my school (but I can’t complain!)

The teachers that taught me weren’t cool (no, I can’t complain!)

You’re holding me down, turning me round (ah!....ah!)

Filling me up with your rules (fool-de-fool)

I’ve got to admit, it’s getting better (Better….)

A little better all the time (It can’t get no worse!)

I have to admit, it’s getting better (Better….)

It’s getting better, since you’ve been mine

Me used to be angry young man

Me hiding me head in the sand

You gave me the word I finally heard

You’re [sic] doing the best that I can

I’ve got to admit, it’s getting better (Better….)

A little better all the time (It can’t get no worse!)

I have to admit, it’s getting better (Better….)

It’s getting better, since you’ve been mine

Get-ting so much bet-ter all the time!

[Break]

I used to be cruel to my woman

I beat her, and kept her apart

From the things that she loved

Man, I was mean

But I’m changin’ my scene

And I’m doin’ the best that I can (Fool, you fool…)

I admit it’s getting better (Better….)

A little better all the time (It can’t get no worse!)

Yes, I admit, it’s getting better (Better….)

It’s getting better, since you’ve been mine

Get-ting so much bet-ter all the time!

**“SHE’S LEAVING HOME”**

written by John Lennon and Paul McCartney

Album Cut from *Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band* (1967)

Wednesday morning at five o’clock as the day begins

Silently closing her bedroom door

Leaving the note that she hoped would say more

She goes downstairs to the kitchen, clutching her handkerchief

Quietly turning the backdoor key

Stepping outside, she is free

She… (we gave her most of our lives)

Is leaving… (sacrificed most of our lives)

Home… (we gave her everything money could buy)

She’s leaving home after living alone (bye, bye…)

For so many years….

Father snores as his wife gets into her dressing-gown

Picks up the letter that’s lying there

Standing alone at the top of stairs

She breaks down, and cries to her husband: “Daddy, our baby’s gone!”

“Why would she treat us so thoughtlessly?

“How could she do this to me?”

She… (we never thought of ourselves)

Is leaving… (never a thought for ourselves)

Home… (we struggled hard all our lives to get by)

She’s leaving home after living alone (Bye, bye…)

For so many years…

Friday morning at nine o’clock she is far away

Waiting to keep the appointment she made

Meeting a man from the motor-trade

She… (what did we do that was wrong?)

Is having… (we didn’t know it was wrong?)

Fun… (fun is the one thing that money can’t buy)

Something inside that was always denied (bye, bye…)

For so many years

She’s leaving home

Bye, bye.

**“WHEN I’M SIXTY-FOUR”**

written by John Lennon and Paul McCartney

Album Cut from *Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band* (1967)

When I get older, losing my hair

Many years from now

Will you still be sending me a valentine?

Birthday greetings, bottle of wine

If I’d be out ’til quarter to three

Would you lock the door?

Will you still need me?

Will you still feed me?

When I’m sixty-four?

(Oooo-ooo-ooo….)

You’ll be older too (ah-ah-ah-ah….)

And if you say the word

I could stay with you!

I could be handy mending a fuse

When your lights have gone

You can knit a sweater by the fireside

Sunday mornings, go for a ride

Doing the garden, digging the weeds

Who could ask for more?

Will you still need me?

Will you still feed me?

When I’m sixty-four?

Every summer we can rent a cottage in the Isle of Wight, if it’s not too dear

We shall scrimp (we-shall-scrimp-and-)

And save (saa-a-a-a-a-ve)

Grandchildren on yer knee

Vera, Chuck, and Dave!

Send me a postcard, drop me a line

Stating point-of-view

Indicate precisely what you mean to say

Yours sincerely, Wasting Away

Give me your answer, fill in a form

Mine forever more

Ah-will ya still need me?

Will ya still feed me?

When I’m sixty four?

Hoo!

**“A DAY IN THE LIFE”**

written by John Lennon and Paul McCartney

Album Cut from *Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band* (1967)

I read the news today, oh boy

About a lucky man who made the grade

And though the news was rather sad

Well, I just had to laugh

I saw the photograph

He blew his mind out in a car

He didn’t notice that the lights had changed

A crowd of people stood and stared

They’d seen his face before

Nobody was really sure if he was from the House of Lords…

I saw a film today, oh boy

The English Army had just won the war

A crowd of people turned away

But I just had to look

Having read the book…

I’d love to turn you on…

[Orchestral Crescendo]

[Alarm Ringing]

Woke up, fell out of bed

Dragged a comb across my head

Found my way downstairs and drank a cup

Then looking up, I noticed I was late

[Pant-pant-pant-pant!]

Found my coat, and grabbed my hat

Made the bus in seconds flat

Found my way upstairs and had a smoke

Then somebody spoke and I went into a dream

I read the news today, oh boy

4,000 holes in Blackburn, Lancashire

And though the holes were rather small

They had to count them all

Now they know how many holes it takes to fill the Albert Hall…

I’d love to turn you on…

[Orchestral Crescendo]

**“STRAWBERRY FIELDS FOREVER”**

written by John Lennon and Paul McCartney

Single from *Magical Mystery Tour* (1967)

[Chorus]

Let me take you down, ’cause I’m going to

Strawberry fields

Nothing is real

And nothing to get hung about

Strawberry fields forever

[Verse 1]

Living is easy with eyes closed

Misunderstanding all you see

It’s getting hard to be someone, but it all works out

It doesn’t matter much to me.

[Chorus]

[Verse 2]

No one, I think, is in my tree

I mean, it must be high or low

That is, you can’t—ya know—tune in, but it’s all right

That is, I think it’s not too bad.

[Chorus]

Always know sometimes think it’s me.

But you know I know when it’s a dream

I think, I know, I mean, ah-yes, but it’s all wrong

That is, I think I disagree.

[Chorus to Fade…]