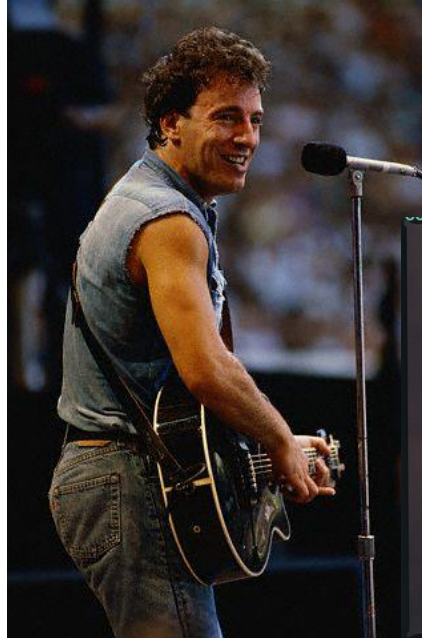


**MUSIC-MADE AMERICA:
BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN**

History 267
Fall 2016
MW 10.25-11.40
Morey 501



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If you're lucky, at the right time, you come across music that is not only "great," or interesting, or "incredible," or fun, but actually sustaining. Through some elusive but tangible process, a piece of music cuts through all defenses and makes sense of every fear and desire you bring to it. . . . You hear that this is what life is all about, that this is what it is for. Yet it is this recognition itself that makes you understand that life can never be this good, this whole. With a clarity life denies for its own good reasons, you see places to which you can never get.

--Greil Marcus, "[Bruce Springsteen] Live at the Roxy" (1979).

This course centers on the work of Bruce Springsteen and the manner in which this work reflects and reflects on American working-class experience and culture in the late twentieth century, as well as his efforts to sustain the traditions of populist social criticism while bearing the mantle of a rock star.

BOOKS/READING

Jim Cullen, Born in the USA
 Bryan Garman, A Race of Singers
 Fred Goodman, Mansion on the Hill
 Bobby Ann Mason, In Country
 Tom Perrotta, Joe College
 Lillian Rubin, Worlds of Pain
 June Sawyers, ed., Racing in the Street
 Richard Sennett and Jonathan Cobb, The Hidden Injuries of Class
 Bryant Simon, Boardwalk of Dreams
 Luis Alberto Urea, Into the Beautiful North

Many of the shorter readings are from Racing in the Street (indicated on the syllabus as Racing). All others are on electronic reserve(R) on Blackboard.

CDS/DVDS

I have not ordered any CDs for the course, but all of the required songs for the course are on reserve in the Music Library and streamed on-line.

Two documentary films, Blood Brothers and Springsteen and I, are required viewing. They are on reserve in the Art Library. I have also placed a DVD of Springsteen videos (Bruce Springsteen: The Complete Video Anthology, 1978-2000), and a concert DVD (Live in New York City) on reserve in the Multimedia Center, and you might well like to watch these at your leisure. If you find yourself looking for a good movie, the Center also has a number of feature films that are pertinent to the themes of the course and recommended on the syllabus.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

For the most part, this is a course focused on discussion and debate. Students are required to attend class and participate actively in the discussions of the course reading and music.

Each student is required to write three papers: two short papers (1000 words) on a single Springsteen song (not necessarily one on the syllabus), analyzing its context and meaning-- and the manner in which this meaning is conveyed by its lyrics and music and one longer paper (2000-2500 words) on a particu-

lar theme in Springsteen's work. The short papers are due on 12 October and 21 November. The longer paper is due on 16 December.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

All assignments and activities associated with this course must be performed in accordance with the University of Rochester's Academic Honesty Policy. More information is available at: www.rochester.edu/college/honesty

CLASS MEETINGS/ASSIGNMENTS

CD Abbreviations

GAP: Greetings from Asbury Park NJ (1973).
 WI: The Wild, The Innocent, and the E Street Shuffle (1973).
 BR: Born to Run (1975).
 CF: Chimes of Freedom (1987).
 DET: Darkness on the Edge of Town (1978).
 RV: The River (1980).
 N: Nebraska (1982).
 USA: Born in the USA (1984).
 TL: Tunnel of Love 1987).
 HT: Human Touch (1992).
 LT: Lucky Town (1992).
 GTJ: The Ghost of Tom Joad (1995).
 RS: The Rising (2002).
 DD: Devils and Dust (2005)
 HO: Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band: Hammersmith Odeon, London '75 (2006)
 SS: We Shall Overcome: The Seeger Sessions (2006)
 M: Magic (2007)
 LD: Live in Dublin (2007)
 WD: Working on a Dream (2009)
 WB: Wrecking Ball (2012)
 HH: High Hopes (2014)

T: Tracks (1998).
 18: 18 Tracks (1999).

GH: Greatest Hits (1995).
 LV: Live/1975-85 (1997).

NYC: Live in New York City (2001).
 EBS: Essential Bruce Springsteen (2003).

Unless otherwise indicated, song assignments are from Springsteen's catalog. In those cases in which a song appears on multiple CDs, the CD in **bold** is that from which the song has been streamed. In some cases, this means I find this version most interesting (with a strong preference for live performance), but listen to whatever version is most accessible to you.

31 August **INTRODUCTION**

►Reading: "Rock and Read: Will Percy Interviews Bruce Springsteen" (Racing); Ann Douglas, "Bruce Springsteen and Narrative Rock" (R).

♪Song: "Thunder Road" (BR, **LV**, GH, EBS, HO)

■Recommended: "Bruce Springsteen Interview," Charlie Rose Show, 20 November 1998
http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xygch_springsteen-at-charlie-rose_music.

5 September **NO CLASS: LABOR DAY**

POPULAR MUSIC AS CULTURAL HISTORY

7 September **AMERICAN POPULAR MUSIC** (Lecture)

►Reading: Larry Star and Christopher Waterman, "Themes and Streams of Popular Music" (R); Robert Palmer, "I Put a Spell on You" (R).

♪Songs: Bessie Smith, "St. Louis Blues," Glen Miller, "In the Mood," Frank Sinatra, "I've Got You Under My Skin,"



Hank Williams, "Your Cheatin' Heart," Louis Jordan, "Choo Choo ch' Boogie," Little Richard, "Tutti Fruitti."

12 September **HOW TO READ A SONG** (Lecture)

►Reading: Susan McClary and Robert Walser, "Start Making Sense" (R); Star and Waterman, "Glossary" (R).

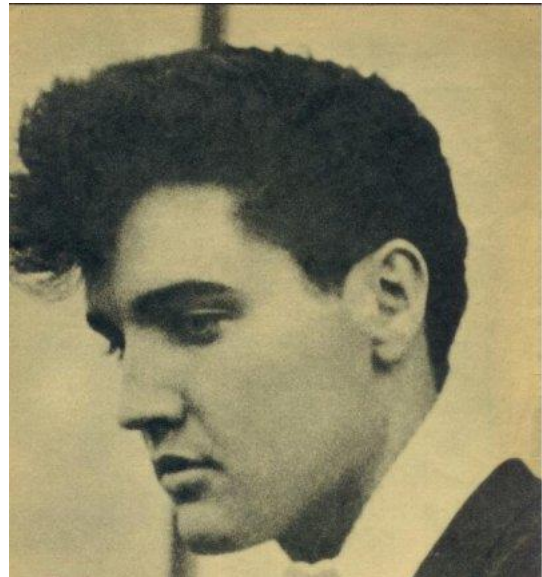
♪Songs: Prince, "When Doves Cry" (Purple Rain).

TRADITIONS

14 September **TALKING TO THE KING**

►Reading: Jim Cullen, Born in the USA, pp. 49-58; Greil Marcus, "Presliad" in Marcus, Mystery Train (R).

♪Songs: Elvis Presley, "Don't Be Cruel," "Hound Dog," "All Shook Up" (Elvis); "Pink Cadillac" (T), "Johnny Bye-Bye" (T), Joe Grushecky (with BS), "Talking to the King" (Down the Road A Piece).



19 September **ROMANCING THE FOLK: WOODY**



►Reading: Bryan Carman, Race of Singers, 1-132, 195-258.

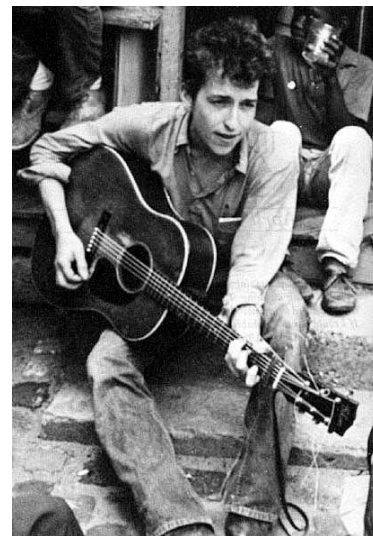
♪Songs: Woody Guthrie, "Tom Joad" (Parts I and II), "I Ain't Got No Home," "Vigilante Man" (Dust Bowl Ballads); "I Ain't Got No Home," "Vigilante Man" (A Vision Shared: A Tribute to Woody Guthrie and Leadbelly); "This Land Is Your Land" (LV); "Ghost of Tom Joad" (GTJ, **EBS**, WB); "Jesse James" (LD); "My Oklahoma Home" (LD).

■Recommended Movie: Grapes of Wrath.

21 September **ROMANCING THE FOLK: PETE AND BOB**

►Reading: Bryan Carman, Race of Singers, 135-192; Benjamin Filene, "Performing the Folk: Pete Seeger and Bob Dylan" (R); Bruce Springsteen, "Bruce on Bob" (R); Mike Marqusee, Chimes of Freedom, pp. 92-96, 153-158; 272-82 (R).

♪Songs: "Chimes of Freedom" (CF), "O Mary Don't You Weep" (SS, LD) "Jacob's Ladder" (LD); Bob Dylan, "Chimes of Freedom" (Another Side of Bob Dylan), The Byrds, "Chimes of Freedom" (Byrds Play Dylan); Peter Seeger and Arlo Guthrie, "66 Highway Blues" (Songs of Pete Seeger, II).



■Recommended Movie: Don't Look Back.

26 September **EBONY AND IVORY** (Lecture)



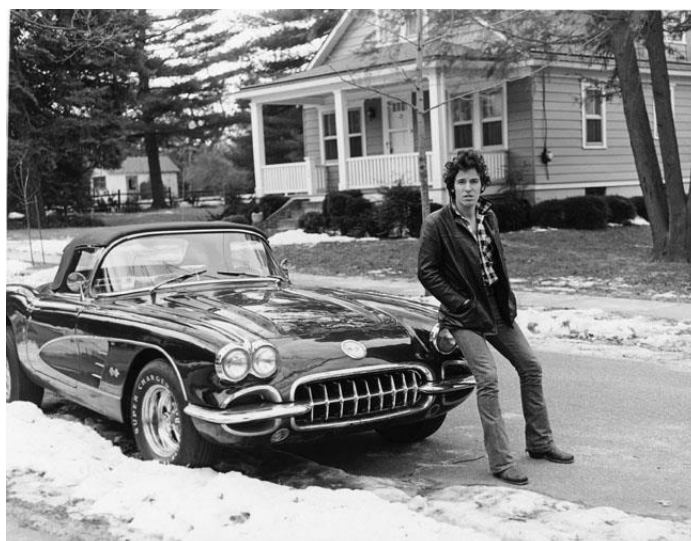
►Reading: Craig Werner, "Gospel Impulse," "Blues Impulse," and "Jazz Impulse" in Werner, A Change Is Gonna Come, pp. 28-31, 68-71, 132-136 (R); Barry Shank, "From Rice to Ice: The Face of Race in Rock and Pop" (R).

♪Songs: Aretha Franklin, "Chain of Fools," "People Get Ready" (Lady Soul); "Land of Hope and Dreams" (NYC, EBS, WB); "Eyes on the Prize" (LD), "We Shall Overcome" (LD).

THE CLASS TERRAIN

28 September **WORLDS OF PAIN**

►Reading: Richard Sennett and Jonathan Cobb, Hidden Injuries of Class, pp. 3-90; Jefferson Cowie, "Vigorously



Left, Right, and Center: The Crosscurrents of Working-Class America in the 1970s" (R).

♪Songs: "Youngstown" (GTJ, **NYC**); Joe Grushecky (with BS), "Homestead" (American Babylon), "The River" (RV, **LV**, EBS), "Glory Days" (USA, GH, **NYC**, EBS).

3 October **GROWING UP**

►Reading: Bob Crane, A Place to Stand excerpt (Racing); Kevin Coyne, "The Faulkner of Freehold" (R), Bruce Springsteen, "In Freehold" (lyrics).

♪Songs: "Growin' Up" (GAP, **LV**), "Blinded by the Light" (GAP, **EBS**), "Spirit in the Night" (GAP, LV EBS, **HO**), "4th of July, Asbury Park (Sandy)" (WI, LV, EBS, **HO**).

5 October **ADAM RAISED A CAIN**

►Reading: Rubin, Worlds of Pain, ch. 3; Sennett and Cobb, Hidden Injuries, pp. 119-135; Tennessee Jones, "My Father's House" (R).

♪Songs: "Adam Raised a Cain" (DET, **LV**), "My Father's House" (N), "Independence Day" (RV, **LV**).

■Recommended Movie: Baby It's You.

10 October **WORK**

►Reading: Lillian Rubin, Worlds of Pain, ch. 9; Sennett and Cobb, Hidden Injuries, pp. 90-105, 191-242.

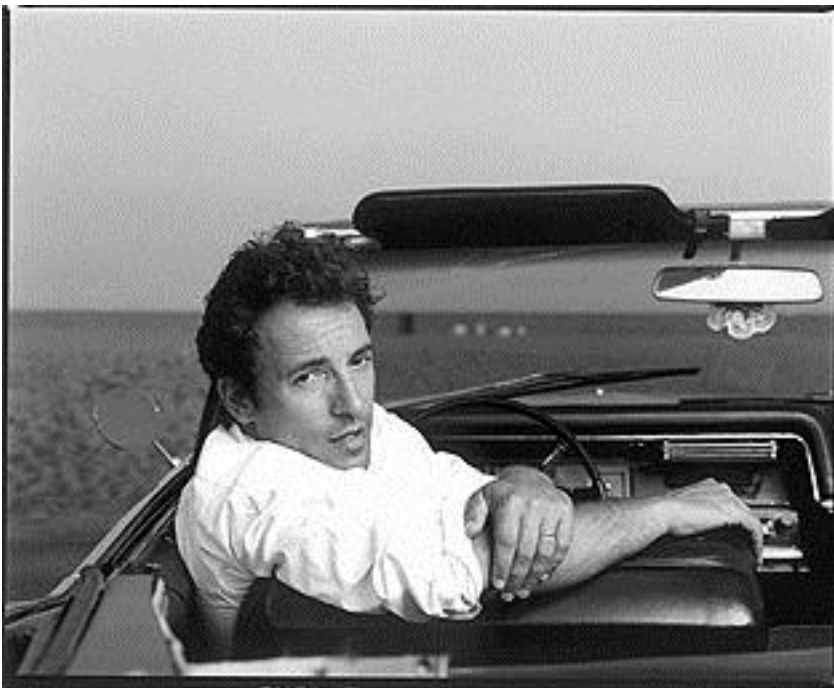
♪Songs: "Factory" (DET), "Johnny 99" (N, LV), "Shackled and Drawn" (WB).

■Recommended Movies: Blue Collar; Norma Rae.



12 October **NO CLASS: FIRST PAPER DUE**

17 October **NO CLASS: FALL BREAK**



19 October **OUT
IN THE STREETS**

►Reading: Jim Cullen, Born in the USA, ch. 5.; Colleen Sheehy, "Springsteen: Troubador of the Highway" (Racing); Karal Ann Marling, "Nightmare Highways" (R).

♪Songs: "Born to Run" (BR, **LV**, GH, EBS), "Out in the Street" (RV,

NYC), "Racing in the Street" (DET, **LV**), "Wreck on the Highway" (RV); "Nebraska" (**N**, LV, EBS), "Radio Nowhere" (M).

■Recommended Movie: Badlands.

24 October **CROSSING**

►Reading: Tom Perrotta, Joe College; Linda Glennon, "Yale: Reflections on Class in New Haven" (R); Barbara Jensen, "Across the Great Divide: Crossing Classes and Clashing Cultures" (R).

♪Songs: "Darkness on the Edge of Town" (DET, **LV**, EBS), "You Can Look (But You Better Not Touch)" (RV), "Mansion on the Hill" (N, **NYC**), "Used Cars" (N).

THIS HARD LAND

26 October **DAMAGED COMMUNITY**

►Reading: Sennett and Cobb, Hidden Injuries, pp. 135-



188; Greil Marcus, "Badlands" (R); Mikail Gilmore, "Bruce Springsteen's America" (Racing); Samuele Pardini, "Bruce Springsteen's 'American Skin'" (Racing).

♪Songs: "Point Blank" (RV), "American Skin" (NYC, EBS, WB), "My City of Ruins" (RS).

■Recommended Movies: The Searchers, Mystic River.

31 October **DOWN HIGHWAY 9**

▶Reading: Bryant Simon, Boardwalk of Dreams; Daniel Wolff, 4th of July, Asbury Park, 164-238 (R).

♪Songs: "Atlantic City" (N, GH, NYC, EBS, LD), "My Hometown" (USA, LV, GH), "Death to My Hometown" (WB), "Wrecking Ball" (WB)

2 November **WORKERS OF THE WORLD**

▶Reading: Luis Alberto Urrea, Into the Beautiful North.

♪Songs: "Sinola Cowboys" (GTJ), "The Line" (GTJ), "Balboa Park" (GTJ), "Galveston Bay" (GTJ), "Plane Wreck at Los Gatos" ('Til We Outnumber 'Em)

HUNGRY HEARTS

7 November **MANHOOD**

▶Reading: Cullen, Born in the USA, ch. 6; Fred Pfeil, "Rock Incorporated: Plugging in to Axl and Bruce" (R); Judy Wieder, "The Advocate Interview" (Racing).



♪Songs: "Walk Like a Man" (TL), "Real Man" (HT), "Tenth Avenue Freeze-out" (BR, LV, **HO**), "Highway Patrolman" (**N**, LD); Little Steven and the Disciples of Soul, "Men Without Women" (Men Without Women).

■Required Movie: Blood Brothers.

■Recommended Movie: Indian Runner.

9 November **CANDY'S ROOM**

►Reading: Rubin, Worlds of Pain, chs. 4-8; Martha Nell Smith, "Sexual Mobilities in Bruce Springsteen" (R).

♪Songs: "Hungry Heart" (RV, **LV**, GH, EBS), "Two Hearts" (RV, **LV**, NYC), "Secret Garden" (GH), "Spare Parts" (TL), "Tougher than the Rest" (TL), "Candy's Room" (DET, **LV**), "Reno" (DD), "What Love Can Do" (WD), "Jack of All Trades" (WB), "This Depression" (WB).

■Recommended Movie: No Looking Back



INTO THE FIRE

14 November **THE POLITICS OF POPULAR MUSIC** (Lecture)

►Reading: John Street, "Rock, Pop and Politics" (R); Keir Keightley, "Reconsidering Rock" (R); Jefferson Cowrie and Lauren Boehm, "Dead Man's Town: 'Born in the USA,' Social History, and Working-Class

Identity" (R).

♪Songs: "Born in the USA" (USA, **LV**, GH, EBS), "Born in the USA"-acoustic (**NYC**, T, 18)



16 November **POPULISM**

►Reading: Michael Kazin, The Populist Persuasion, pp. 1-7, 246-286 (R); Cullen, Born in the USA, chs. 1-3; Nicholas Dawidoff, "The Pop Populist" (Racing), George Will, "Bruuuuuce" (Racing); Jefferson Morley, "Darkness on the Edge of the Shining City" (Racing).

♪Songs: "Badlands" (DET, **LV**, GH, NYC), "Promised Land" (DET, **LV**, EBS), "Seeds" (LV), "This Hard Land" (**T**, GH), "Roulette" (T), "How Can a Poor Man Stand Such Times and Live" (LD); Merle Haggard, "Okie from Muskogee," "Irma Jackson" (Down Every Road).

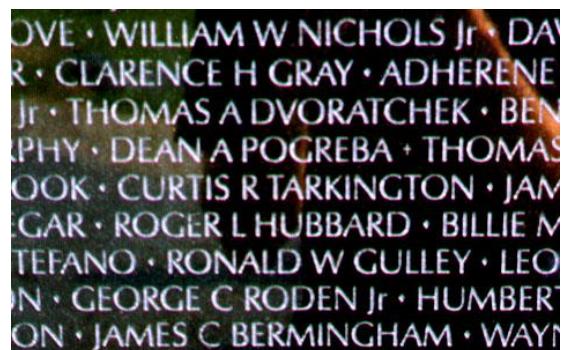
21 November **NO CLASS: SECOND PAPER DUE**

23 November **NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING**

28 November **THE SHADOW OF WAR:
VIETNAM**

►Reading: Bobby Ann Mason, In Country; Cullen, Born in the USA, ch. 4; Christian Appy, Working Class War, 11-43(R).

♪Songs: "War" (LV), "Brothers Under the Bridge" (18,**T**), "Shut



Out the Light" (T), "Mrs. McGrath" (LD), "The Wall" (HH).

■Recommended Movies: Born on the Fourth of July; Deer Hunter

30 November

THE SHADOW OF WAR: 9/11



►Reading: Alan Light, "The Missing" (Racing); A.O. Scott, "The Poet Laureate of 9/11" (Racing).

♪Songs: "Into the Fire" (RS), "Empty Sky" (RS), "Paradise" (RS), "You're Missing" (RS); Steve Earle, "John Walker's

Blues" (Jerusalem)



5 December

HYPE

Reading: Fred Goodman, The Mansion on the Hill, prologue, chs. 1-2, 8-9, 10, 12, 13-14, 16; Simon Frith, "The Real Thing--Bruce Springsteen" (Racing); David Hajdu, "Tramps Like Who?" (R).

♪Songs: "Better Days" (**LT**, GH), Randy Newman, "My Life Is Good" (Trouble in Paradise)

LAND OF HOPE AND DREAMS

7 December

IMAGINED COMMUNITY

►Reading: Sennett and Cobb, Hidden Injuries, pp. 245-262; Hope Edelman,



"Bruce Springsteen and the Story of Us" (Racing).

♪Songs: "Ties that Bind" (RV), "No Surrender" (USA, **LV**), "If I Should Fall Behind" (LT, **NYC**, LD), "Mary's Place" (RS, **EBS**), "American Land" (**LD**, WB), "We Take Care of Our Own" (WB).

■Movie: Springsteen and I (DVD).

12 December **FAITH**

►Reading: Flannery O'Connor, "A Good Man Is Hard to Find" (R); Andrew Greeley, "Catholic Imagination of Bruce Springsteen" (Racing).

♪Songs: "Valentine's Day" (TL), "Leap of Faith" (LT), "The Rising" (RS, **EBS**), "Reason to Believe" (N, **LV**), "Two Faces" (TL), "Devils and Dust" (DD), "Jesus Was an Only Son" (DD), "Further On Up the Road" (LD), "O Mary Don't You Weep" (LD), "This Little Light of Mine" (LD), "We Are Alive" (WB), "Heaven's Wall" (HH), "This Is Your Sword" (HH).

■Recommended Movie: Wise Blood

16 December **FINAL PAPER DUE**

