

Course Syllabus
Bob Dylan, The Band, & American Roots Music
July 6-27: (4 sessions) 10-12Noon
Covenant Presbyterian Church

The course will include weekly readings and in class video/music presentations. The format will include active discussions about the importance and influence of this music, and how it changed the directions of a lot of contemporary country/folk/roots music.

While there are not any required readings, the following book provides interesting perspectives. Recommended readings will be sent via email each week during the course.

MILLION DOLLAR BASH: Bob Dylan, The Band & the Basement Tapes, by Sid Griffin

Please be sure to pre-register, as the class size is limited to 20.

To pre-register send an email to: tierneyotis@gmail.com

Session #1: July 6. The first session will focus on the music culture in the mid 1960s and how Dylan and The Band ended up in rural upstate New York in 1967, and spent the next 18 months just hanging out and playing music that they never thought would be made public, and which formed the basis of transforming popular music.

Session #2: July 13. The Basement Tapes are born and Dylan starts exploring country/roots music with the release of the albums “All Along the Watchtower” and “Nashville Skyline”. The Basement Tapes are not released, officially until 1974, and even then, don’t include some of the best songs.

Session #3: July 20. The Band finds its voice with the release of a number of groundbreaking, tradition soaked country rock music albums. In 1976 the culmination of their career is captured in the Academy Award winning documentary: “The Last Waltz”.

Session #4: July 27. The modern roots music movement takes off with numerous artists exploring the possibilities opened up through the Basement Tapes. During the 1990s and 2000s Dylan, Levon Helm, and Robbie Robertson release a number of critically acclaimed albums exploring American music traditions and roots, continuing the work started in 1966-67. Also, the complete Basement Tapes (11 CDs) are released by Columbia Records in 2013.