Content: While Frank Sinatra’s long career are linked mostly with a variety of American cities ranging from Hoboken and the Big Apple to Chicago and Vegas, Sinatra’s artistic presence was worldwide. And, despite the singer’s primary association with his mining of the Great American Songbook, he rarely met a great song he didn’t try to tackle. ENG 214: The London Sinatra(s) will examine -- through the lenses of British scholars Karen McNally (film) and Chris Rojek (sociology) -- Sinatra’s artistic production in London itself, including the 1962 collaboration with British composer/arranger Robert Farnon, *Frank Sinatra Sings Great Songs from Great Britain*; the 1967 thriller *The Naked Runner*; and the 1970 charity concert at Royal Festival Hall. Additionally, *Playing Sinatra*, by British playwright Bernard Kops, will offer a dispassionate look at isolated London siblings obsessed with the singer, with related topics including daughter Nancy’s 1966 London album and the London life of Frank’s expatriate former wife, Ava Gardner. And starting off the year with a Sinatra class is especially appropriate since 2015 marks the centenary of his birth.

Texts and Media:


Sinatra, Frank. *Concert from Royal Festival Hall* (Reprise Video, 1970)

- - - . *Frank Sinatra Sings Great Songs from Great Britain* (Reprise Records, 1962)

- - - . *The Naked Runner* (1967)

- - - . *Sinatra: London* (2104)

Sinatra, Nancy. *Nancy in Sinatra* (Sundazed Records, 1966)

**Assignments:**
-- 3 response papers: 1-2 pages, double-spaced, reflecting on a particular aspect of the course:
   - The City and its Songs (10%)
   - *Playing Sinatra* and its London Setting (10%)
   - An American in London (15%)

-- Regular journal entries (no fewer than five) composed during the trip itself. (15%)

-- One final essay: 6-8 pages, double-spaced, bringing together the music, drama, film we have discussed and the backdrop of London in which they were created (a combination of response papers and journal entries) (50%)

**Course Goals:**
• *To hone* your skills in literary analysis, which include reading and talking about drama, song lyrics, and film.

• *To theorize* the style and content of the music and film Sinatra performed in and around London during the 1960s and 1970s.

**Excursions:**
Tour of “London by Night (and Day),” including Hyde Park, Bloomsbury, the London Bridge and River Thames, Tate Gallery, British Museum, Tate Modern, The London Eye, and Berkeley Square

Ava Gardner’s Home and Memorial, 34 Ennismore Gardens, Knightsbridge

*Jersey Boys*, musical at The Palace Theatre, and *War Horse*

*Slava’s Snow Show*, a performance at Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre

London Beatles Tour

Other sites around London
Class Meetings/Assignments

Thursday, 18 December 2014 (10:15 AM - 12:15 PM)

*Frank Sinatra Sings Great Songs from Great Britain* (1962)

*Nancy in London* (1966)

Robin Douglas-Home, *Sinatra* (selections)

Charles Granata, *Sessions With Sinatra* (selections)

Chris Rojek, *Frank Sinatra* (selections)

Biographical/Career Overviews:

Frank Sinatra

Ava Gardner

Nancy Sinatra

*Concert from Royal Festival Hall* (1970) (clips)

Friday, 18 December 2014 (10:15 AM - 12:15 PM)


*The Naked Runner* (1967), starring Frank Sinatra

Monday, 22 December 2014 (10:15 AM - 12:15 PM)

Bernard Kops, *Playing Sinatra*

Gilbert Gigliotti, "'There'll Be No Future Without Him' - The Voice Versus the Emerging Monster of Playing Sinatra,” *A Storied Singer: Frank Sinatra as Literary Concret*

**Reaction Paper #1 Due:** The City and its Songs

Tuesday, 23 December 2014 (10:15 AM - 1:15 PM)

Robert Graves, “A Toast to Ava Gardner”

Alton Rivers, *Love, Ava* (selections)

Anonymous, “Tam Lin,” 16th-century Scottish Border Ballad
Fairport Convention, “Tam Lin” (1969)

Tam Lin (a.k.a., The Devil’s Widow, 1970), starring Ava Gardner

**Reaction Paper #2 Due**: Playing Sinatra and its London Setting

**Wednesday, 24 December 2014**

No class

**Reaction Paper #3 Due**: An American in London

**Friday, 26 December 2014, to Sunday, 4 January 2015**

Travel to London

**Monday, 12 January 2015**

Journal entries from trip (minimum 5)

Final paper due (noon)