

SAN FRANCISCO ROCK OF THE 1960s: THE SOUNDTRACK TO THE SUMMER OF LOVE

Suggested General Reading List

There are at least several dozen, if not hundreds, of books about or strongly related to early San Francisco rock history, with more undoubtedly on the way in the future. Most of the best ones are listed and described in the six syllabuses for each of the course's weekly meetings. Here a few, however, whose scopes are wide enough that they can't be easily confined to one era:

1. *Summer of Love: The Inside Story of LSD, Rock & Roll, Free Love and High Times in the Wild West*, by Joel Selvin (Cooper Square Press, 1994). Still the most thorough, indeed the only thorough, history of the birth and peak of early San Francisco rock, concentrating almost exclusively on the years 1965-1971. This interweaves the stories of the era's major bands (Jefferson Airplane, the Grateful Dead, Big Brother & the Holding Company with Janis Joplin, Country Joe & the Fish, Quicksilver Messenger Service, Santana, Moby Grape, the Steve Miller Band, Creedence Clearwater Revival) with numerous important and influential if lesser known ones. The author is a longtime music critic for the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

2. *Got a Revolution! The Turbulent Flight of Jefferson Airplane*, by Jeff Tamarkin (Atria Books, 2003). Though the Grateful Dead would eventually become the most successful and longest-lived of the major San Francisco 1960s rock bands, during the actual era, Jefferson Airplane were the most popular and influential. This is the most comprehensive biography of the band, running about 400 pages and drawing on first-hand interviews with all the members and key associates.

3. *A Long Strange Trip: The Inside History of the Grateful Dead*, by Dennis McNally (Three Rivers Press, 2003). Though there are numerous books about the Grateful Dead, or at least aspects of the Grateful Dead, these tend to be very specialized or only of appeal to serious Deadheads. At 700 pages, this is the most thorough account of the Grateful Dead likely to be written for the general reader, authored by a longtime official historian/publicist for the band.

4. *San Francisco: The Musical History Tour*, by Joel Selvin (Chronicle Books, 1996). Though this guidebook covers more than 200 sites of significance in San Francisco rock history ranging from the 1960s to the 1990s, it's strongest on the places associated with the Summer of Love, the San Francisco Sound, and the period from the mid-1960s to the early 1970s that will be the focus of this course.