

**Course description: “Folk Songs Inspire Rebels Part 1”**

**Fall 2024 at Lewes (in person & hybrid) and Dover (in person)**

**Instructor: Glenn Rill**

**Learn about folk songs that inspired Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, and Alan Lomax. We will learn about U.S. historical events that caused working class people to express their hardships through music. Part 1 covers The Great Depression, The New Deal, and Working in the Mines.**

Sessions will focus on U.S. history that inspired working class people to express their feeling through folk songs, which raised awareness of the hardships they experienced. That awareness sometimes resulted in reform movements and sometimes backlash onto the laborers.

Most of the songs covered in this class came from a songbook titled “Hard Hitting Songs For Hard-Hit People”, a collection created in 1941 by Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, and Alan Lomax. The course will also tell the stories of these 3 people who later influenced the Great American Folk Music movement of the 1940’s, 1950’s, and later.

This Part 1 (of 2) will concentrate on The Great Depression, which triggered The New Deal, plus we will cover “Working in the Mines”.

Part 2 (probably in Spring 2015) will cover The Dust Bowl, “Working on the Farms”, “Working in the Mills”, and the Labor Movement.

**Format:** Lecture, videos of folk songs, and occasional live performance of songs when not available on video.