

SCHOOL OF FINE ART AND MUSIC
Winter Semester 2017
MUSC*2150-01
MUSIC AND POPULAR CULTURE



INSTRUCTOR: Shannon Carter
TIME: Tuesdays, 7:00-9:50pm
LOCATION: Albert A. Thornbrough Building, Room 1200
OFFICE: MacKinnon Building, Room 215
PHONE: Extension 53897
EMAIL: scarte05@uoguelph.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Wednesdays & Fridays 11:30-1:30 p.m.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

MUSC*2150 F,W [0.50]

A survey of the major genres, styles, personalities and performances of popular music primarily in the 20th-century through lectures, listening, discussion and reading. Issues such as the relationship between popular music and race, class, technology, and art will be examined. Technical knowledge of music is not required.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course traces the history of twentieth-century North American popular music from the intersection of early twentieth-century mainstream pop, blues, and country-western to the urban styles of the early 2000s. We will consider the context that helped form each styles and genre in terms of historical events, economics, dominant political and cultural ideologies, race, gender and socio-economic class. We will also analyze the sonic and technological qualities of each genre and develop a vocabulary for discussing the music.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course you will be able to:

1. Aurally identify North American pop music from any period in the 20th century
2. Aurally identify some of the major performances in the pop repertoire
3. Explain the significance of these performances
4. Describe genres and specific performances
5. Use musical and social language related to pop music in appropriate ways
6. Draw connections between social and cultural phenomena and musical practices.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

1. Covach, John. *What’s That Sound?: An Introduction to Rock and It’s History*. 4th ed. Published by: W.W. Norton & Company Inc., 2015. ISBN: 978-0-393-93725-1. You need to get either the hard copy or the ebook (cheaper)
2. You will also need access to digital materials on the publisher’s website:
 - Playlists: contains links to required songs on Spotify (you will need to set up an account)
 - Supplemental Listening Guides

You can find this material by going to the following web address:
<https://digital.wwnorton.com/whats thatsound4>. If you purchased a used textbook, you will need to purchase access to the publisher’s website in order to log in to this address. It would likely be cheaper to simply purchase the ebook.

METHOD OF EVALUATION:

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| Two listening tests worth 20% each | 40% |
| Week 6 (Tuesday, February 14) | |
| Week 11 (Tuesday, March 28) | |
| Midterm exam, Week 7 (Tuesday, February 28) | 30% |
| Final exam. (April 22, 2:30-4:30 p.m.; Location: TBA) | 30% |

****VERY IMPORTANT:** because of the use of streamed material in the listening tests, **these tests CANNOT be written at SAS**. If you are registered with SAS, please bear this in mind. Time accommodations will be honoured.

EMAIL POLICY:

When sending email, please remember:

1. To include the course code in the subject heading (I teach other courses, so I need to know to which course your question pertains: mix-ups have occurred in the past).
2. To include your first and last name within the body of the email.
3. That all emails must be sent from a University of Guelph email address only.

Email is checked once a day, during regular business hours (9:00-5:00), on weekdays. Email is NOT checked on weekends or after hours. Please plan your correspondence accordingly.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

*non-graded elements are subject to change

*you are responsible for all songs with listening guides within the required reading

WEEK 1: Introduction to Popular Music Studies

Reading: Covach 3-32

WEEK 2: Tin Pan Alley: Blues; Country/Western

Reading: 33-74

WEEK 3: 1950s Rock 'n' Roll; Rockabilly

Reading: 75-109

WEEK 4: The Brill Building and the Rise of the Producer

Reading: 110-150

WEEK 5: The British Invasion; Blues-Based Rock

Reading: 151-187

WEEK 6: The Folk Revivals; Folk Rock; Garage Bands

Reading: 188-215

Listening Test 1

WEEK 7: Motown; Southern Soul; Early Funk

Reading: 216-247

Midterm

WEEK 8: Psychedelic Music (Pop, Rock & Blues)

Reading: 248-288

WEEK 9: Corporate, Glam and Progressive Rock; Singers/Songwriters and Cultivated Sincerity

Reading: 289-333

WEEK 10: Black Pop; Reggae; Disco

Reading: 334-365

WEEK 11: Punk; New Wave; Pop & MTV

Reading: 366-420
Listening Test 2

WEEK 12: Heavy Metal and Rap

Reading: 436-457

STANDARD STATEMENTS:

E-mail Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <mail.uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. [See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.](#)

Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is **Friday, 10 March 2017**. For [regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar.](#)

Copies of out-of-class assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible. For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email csd@uoguelph.ca or see the [website](#).

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Each student at the University of Guelph has rights which carry commensurate responsibilities that involve, broadly, being a civil and respectful member of the University community. [The Rights and Responsibilities are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar](#)

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor. [The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.](#)

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources

The [Academic Calendars](#) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.