



MUSC*3740 Topics in Popular Music Studies

Fall 2020

Section(s): C01

School of Fine Art and Music

Credit Weight: 1.00

Version 1.00 - June 25, 2020

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

This course examines the rise and impact of the cultural industries on production and consumption of music, the development of transnational popular music, and the role popular music plays in the politics of social identity.

Pre-Requisites: 7.50 credits including (MUSC*1180 or MUSC*2180),
MUSC*2150

1.2 Course Description

Upheaval and Unrest: The Politics of Race and Gender in Popular Music

Music has been an important tool for protest throughout history. Popular music has served as a voice for the disenfranchised, as well as a location for the voicing of important commentary on socio-political issues. This course will provide historical grounding in popular music's contribution to politics in North America, before focusing on music's role in current political debates and movements, including: Black Lives Matter, #MeToo, and Idle No More. Through readings, discussion, and analysis, students will explore how musicians representing various genres (hip-hop, rock, pop, country, singer-songwriter, etc.) negotiate current political realities and contribute to public discourse on critical issues.

1.3 Timetable

Timetable is subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information.

Tuesdays and Thursdays 1-2:20 pm

Class content will be delivered remotely.

1.4 Final Exam

Exam time and location is subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information.

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructional Support Team

Instructor:	Alyssa Woods
Email:	awoods08@uoguelph.ca
Telephone:	+1-519-824-4120 x54985
Office:	Johnston Hall, Rm 113

3 Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resources

Required readings will be available via: CourseLink; ARES Course Reserves; Library Databases (Readings)

Listening/Viewing Material will be available on: CourseLink; YouTube; Spotify (Website)

4 Learning Outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Understand how popular culture influences, and is influenced by, contemporary political structures.
2. Think critically about popular music texts and engage in discussions about their interaction with social and cultural issues.
3. Demonstrate familiarity with both academic and journalistic writings on popular

music (put into practice through a "Journalistic Critical Commentary," as well as a major research paper).

4. Use a variety of analytical tools for interpreting popular music texts.
5. Demonstrate interdisciplinary research skills and methods of analysis through the discussion of popular music texts, and the submission of a major research paper.
6. Mobilize theories and methodologies from fields such as musicology, media studies, gender studies, history, critical race theory, and communications in discussions on popular music.

5 Teaching and Learning Activities

6 Assessments

6.1 Assessment Details

Engagement in Virtual Discussions (10%)

Students are required to engage with course materials (readings, viewing, listening) in weekly virtual class meetings and "virtual learning pods."

Pod-led seminar sessions (10%)

Each pod (small discussion group) will lead a class discussion on an assigned topic.

Journalistic Critical Commentary (15%)

This assignment is designed to allow students to explore different mediums through which to create a critical commentary on popular music and politics. Students may choose from the following options: podcast, blog entry, multi-media artwork, recording, album review, interview. Other mediums may be considered pending discussion with the instructor.

Reading Reports (15%)

Students are required to submit three reading reports summarizing and reflecting on assigned readings (maximum two pages).

Research Paper (40%)

Students will conduct research on a topic of their choice (related to the course content) and submit a research paper at the end of the semester. This assignment will be broken

down into the following stages:

- 1) Proposal (5%)
- 2) Outline and Bibliography (10%)
- 3) Final paper submission (25%)

Individual Seminar Presentation (10%)

At the end of the semester, students will virtually present the research conducted for their term papers. This is a five minute presentation that can be pre-recorded or presented live.

7 University Statements

7.1 Email Communication

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

7.2 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. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml>

7.3 Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

7.4 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.

7.5 Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance and not later than the 40th Class Day.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website

<https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

7.6 Academic Integrity

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 encourages academic integrity. 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.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

7.7 Recording of Materials

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

7.8 Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>
