CULT 3120 Music and Culture

Course Co-ordinator: Dr Shane Homan  
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Email: Shane.Homan@newcastle.edu.au  
Consultation hours: Tuesday 111 - 12 am

Course Overview

Semester  
Semester 2 - 2007

Unit Weighting  
10

Teaching Methods  
Seminar

Brief Course Description

Popular music remains at the heart of everyday life in many different ways. Its ability to organise, reassure, provoke, contain or anaesthetise attests to its influence within social life. This course examines some of the key debates in popular music studies, including the significant changes in popular music consumption, with, for example, the emergence of the mobile phone and TV talent show franchises as key links between contemporary youth audiences and performers. Equally, in the age of the 'mash-up', innovation in digital technologies continues to challenge prior modes of production and viability for producers in an era of industry/company integration. While these are important issues for debate, this course also emphasises effect and affectivity: the astonishing ways in which popular music moves us to different forms of expression and feeling.

CULT 3120 assumes that popular music provides not only entertainment, but a common space for the personal, social and political experiences of youth. It will consider the cultural roles of music and musicians, and the ways in which music is interpreted and used by listeners in a variety of contexts.

Contact Hours

Seminar for 2 Hours per Week for the Full Term

Learning Materials/Texts

A course reader will provide the basis of weekly readings. Further readings will be provided on Blackboard and in Auchmuty library short loans.
Course Objectives
On completion of the course students will be able to:

1. Define the roles of music in youth culture.
2. Explain the ideological assumptions of music culture.
3. Classify music scenes, industries and communities.
4. Discuss the appropriation and articulation of music genres.
5. Apply cultural theories in independent research on music.

Course Content
The course content will be drawn from:

- Popular music as social practice
- Popular music histories and theoretical debates
- Styles, genres and subcultures
- Popular music and cultural policy
- Music technologies and industrial practice

Assessment Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Essays / Written Assignments</th>
<th>1,000 words, due early semester, worth 25%.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essays / Written Assignments</td>
<td>1,000 words, due mid semester, worth 25%.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essays / Written Assignments</td>
<td>2,000 words, due end semester, worth 50%.</td>
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Assumed Knowledge
20 units of 1000 level courses

Callaghan Campus Timetable

CULT3120 MUSIC AND CULTURE
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 2 - 2007
Seminar Wednesday 12:00 - 14:00 [W243]
or Wednesday 9:00 - 11:00 [GP2-12/14]

Plagiarism

University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. A student plagiarises if he or she presents the thoughts or works of another as one's own. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

- copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;
- using another’s ideas without due acknowledgment;
- working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it was completed independently.

Plagiarism is not only related to written works, but also to material such as data, images, music, formulae, websites and computer programs.

Aiding another student to plagiarise is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty.

For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link -

The University has established a software plagiarism detection system called Turnitin. When you submit assessment items please be aware that for the purpose of assessing any assessment item the University may -

- Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or
- Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a plagiarism checking service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking).
- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

Written Assessment Items

Students are required to provide written assessment items in electronic form as well as hard copy.

Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date, as advised in the Course Outline, unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension of time for submission of the item. University policy is that an assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension, will be penalised.

Any student:

1. who is applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; or
2. whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment;

must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, to the appropriate officer following the instructions provided in the Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Procedure - Policy 000641.

Note: different procedures apply for minor and major assessment tasks.

Please go to the Policy at [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html) for further information, particularly for information on the options available to you.

Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:

- **Requests for Special Consideration** must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the due date of submission or examination.
- **Requests for Extensions of Time on Assessment Items** must be lodged no later than the due date of the item.
- **Requests for Rescheduling Exams** must be received in the Student Hub no later than ten working days prior the first date of the examination period

Your application may not be accepted if it is received after the deadline. Students who are unable to meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak to their Program Officer in the first instance.

Changing your Enrolment

The last dates to withdraw without financial or academic penalty (called the HECS Census Dates) are:

For semester 2 courses: 31 August 2007

Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of semester. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of semester will result in a fail grade.
Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of semester/trimester, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of semester/trimester must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with staff in the Student Hubs.

To change your enrolment online, please refer to

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/enrolment/changingenrolment.html

**Faculty Information**

The Student Hubs are a one-stop shop for the delivery of student related services and are the first point of contact for students on campus.

The four Student Hubs are located at:

**Callaghan campus**
- Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Union Building
- Hunter Hub: Student Services Centre, Hunter side of campus

**City Precinct**
- City Hub & Information Common: University House, ground floor in combination with an Information Common for the City Precinct

**Ourimbah campus**
- Ourimbah Hub: Administration Building

**Faculty websites**

**Faculty of Education and Arts**
http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/

**Contact details**

**Callaghan, City and Port Macquarie**

Phone: 02 4921 5000

Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au

**The Dean of Students**

Resolution Precinct
Phone: 02 4921 5806
Fax: 02 4921 7151

Email: resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

Various services are offered by the University Student Support Unit:

**Alteration of this Course Outline**

No change to this course outline will be permitted after the end of the second week of the term except in exceptional circumstances and with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of any approved changes to this outline.

**Web Address for Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards**
Web Address for Rules Governing Postgraduate Academic Awards

Web Address for Rules Governing Professional Doctorate Awards

STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS

The University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness.

If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies, please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator.

Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register please contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, or via email at: student-disability@newcastle.edu.au

As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester.

For more information related to confidentiality and documentation please visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website at: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability

Online Tutorial Registration:

Students are required to enrol in the Lecture and a specific Tutorial time for this course via the Online Registration system. Refer - http://studinfo1.newcastle.edu.au/rego/stud_choose_login.cfm

NB: Registrations close at the end of week 2 of semester.

Studentmail and Blackboard: Refer - www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/

This course uses Blackboard and studentmail to contact students, so you are advised to keep your email accounts within the quota to ensure you receive essential messages. To receive an expedited response to queries, post questions on the Blackboard discussion forum if there is one, or if emailing staff directly use the course code in the subject line of your email. Students are advised to check their studentmail and the course Blackboard site on a weekly basis.

Further Information

Details about the following topics are available on your course Blackboard site (where relevant). Refer - www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/

- Online copy submission to Turnitin
- Penalties for Late Assignments
- Special Circumstances
- No Assignment Re-submission
- Re-marks & Moderations
- Return of Assignments
- Preferred Referencing Style
- Student Representatives
- Student Communication
- Essential Online Information for Students
WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Week beginning</th>
<th>Lecture Topic &amp; Assessment at a Glance</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>18 July</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>25 July</td>
<td>Popular Music: Histories &amp; Theories</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>1 August</td>
<td>The Music Industry</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>8 August</td>
<td>Music Radio</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>15 August</td>
<td>Music Television</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>22 August</td>
<td>Sounding Out The City</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>29 August</td>
<td>Race, Rhythm and Politics</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>5 September</td>
<td>Fandom: Scenes &amp; Subcultures</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>12 September</td>
<td>Popular Music and Gender</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>19 September</td>
<td>Governmental As Anything: Censorship</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>26 September</td>
<td>Governmental As Anything: Music Policy</td>
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<td>Mid-Semester Recess: Monday 2 October - Friday 14 October</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>17 October</td>
<td>Rage Against the Machine: Technologies</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>24 October</td>
<td>Celebrity &amp; Simulation: Music Tributes</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>31 October</td>
<td>No course seminar</td>
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<td>Examination period: Monday 6 November - Friday 24 November</td>
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ASSESSMENT

1. The Music Industry

Worth: 25%
Length: 1000 words
Due: 5:00pm Friday 10 August

The music industries are increasingly linked to other media sectors. Choosing one media form or company as a case study, outline and analyse how one sector of the music industry is working with other media forms and industries to promote, distribute and synergise products and profits. Your research must include a minimum of 3 academic sources (this doesn't include the course reader) in addition to other appropriate material (e.g. newspapers, web sites).

Additional guidelines for this assignment will be placed on Blackboard.

2. Music Scenes: Space and Place

Worth: 25%
Length: 1000 words
Due: 5:00pm Friday 14 September

Choose one particular site of music activity (web site; music venue; music festival; nightclub; shopping centre performances etc) and briefly examine:
• Locality (how and where does the activity fit within virtual and/or city structures?)
• Culture / subculture (are the music and participants part of a definable ‘scene’ or subculture?)
• Identity (comment upon genre; identity politics and gender)
• Policy (is the music activity supported or prohibited by authorities?)

Your research must include a minimum of 3 academic sources (this doesn’t include the course reader) in addition to other appropriate material (e.g. newspapers, web sites). Additional guidelines for this assignment will be placed on Blackboard.

3. Technology and Policy

Worth: 50%
Length: 2000 words
Due: 5:00pm Friday 2 October

Choose one of the following questions:

Question 1
How have fears about popular music changed (or not) since the 1950s? Use a contemporary popular music ‘moral panic’ to explain your views.

Question 2
What are the implications for former notions of copyright in the age of digital music? Critically analyse the impact of digital music-media upon producers and consumers.

Question 3
Should governments be involved in the support of popular music? Examining current Australian popular music policy structures, critically analyse the arguments for and against funding and other means of policy intervention.

Your research must include a minimum of 3 academic sources (this doesn’t include the course reader) in addition to other appropriate material (e.g. newspapers, web sites). Additional guidelines for this assignment will be placed on Blackboard.

NB: Wikipedia is not accepted as a source of research for any assignment!

Assessment Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The Music Industry</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Week 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Music Scenes: Space and Place</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Week 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Technology and Policy</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Week 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week/ date</td>
<td>Lecture Topic</td>
<td>Tutorial Reading</td>
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<td><strong>BREAK</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>14 31 October</td>
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<td>No seminar: final essay due</td>
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