CULT 3120 MUSIC AND CULTURE

Course Co-ordinator: Dr Shane Homan
Room: GP3-29
Ph: 02 4921 6787
Fax: 02 49217402
Email: Shane.Homan@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation hours: Tuesday 11-12 am

Course Overview
Semester Semester 2 - 2006
Unit Weighting 10
Course Level 3000
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.

Assumed Knowledge
20 units of 1000 level courses
Contact Hours
Seminar for 2 hours per week for the Full Term.

CULT3120 Timetable
Lecture Wednesday 12:00 - 14:00 [W243]
or Wednesday 15:00 - 17:00 [MCG29]

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 Rationale
The purpose of this course is to contribute to the School of Humanities & Social Science
objectives of facilitating understanding of how societies and cultures are organised, how
they develop and how they change. It also contributes to the Faculty’s objectives of
developing in graduates:

1. Depth and breadth of knowledge
2. Critical and creative thinking
3. Communication skills
4. Responsiveness to the demands of the community and profession

The course contributes to these goals through its teaching and assessment program and
its encouragement of critical reflection. This course contributes to the Film, Media and
Cultural Studies streams in the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Communication and
Bachelor of Social Science. It also contributes to the knowledge and skills necessary for
students to progress to Honours, MA and PhD theses. The course is available as an
elective for students enrolled in degrees other than the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of
Social Science.

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. Identify music scenes and key shifts in music production and consumption
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

Essential Criteria in Assessment
This course contains compulsory components or assessment items that must be
satisfactorily completed in order for a student to receive a pass mark or better for the
course. These essential elements are described in the CTS.
1. Profile of a Musician

Worth: 25%
Length: 1000 words
Due: 5:00pm Friday 18 August

Discuss a musician or musical group in terms of the broader cultural issues considered in this course such as the distribution of power in society, the politics of race, class and gender, the construction and presentation of identity, the experience of place and community, and the historical evolution of cultures and cultural groups. Additional guidelines for this assignment will be placed on Blackboard.

2. Music Consumption: Essay 1 (1000 words)

Worth: 25%
Length: 1000 words
Due: 5:00pm Friday 22 September

Andy Bennett has argued that:

consumers take the structures of meaning – the musical and extra-musical resources associated with particular genres of pop - and combine them with meanings of their own to produce distinctive variations in patterns of consumption and stylistic expression (2000: 46).

In 1000 words, discuss the meaning of music in your life, and how you engage with particular sounds, performers and music spaces as a set of cultural experiences. How does your choice and use of popular music influence your own ‘stylistic expression’ and ways of making sense of the world?

Additional guidelines for this assignment will be placed on Blackboard.


Worth: 50%
Length: 2000 words
Due: 5:00pm Friday 27 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
Choose one music genre and outline its formal properties, iconic performers and core audiences. How has this genre changed over time?
Question 4
*In an age of global media, is the ‘local’ still important in terms of sounds, performers and audiences?*

Question 5
*How are music ‘scenes’ defined and developed against the mainstream? Drawing upon subcultural theory, discuss one particular music scene, analysing tensions between locality, commercialism and ‘organic’ music production and consumption.*

Additional guidelines for this assignment will be placed on Blackboard.

**Assessment Items**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Profile of a Musician</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Week 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Consumption Essay (1000 words)</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Week 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Issues Essay (2000 words)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Week 13</td>
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**Assignment Evaluation Criteria**

All written assignments will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Structure (intro; body; conclusion)
- Application of concepts & definitions
- Construction of an argument/critical evaluation
- Research (use of academic sources)
- Presentation (margins, font, spacing)
- Referencing (in text and reference list)

**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 may be 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 on the prescribed form.


Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:

- Requests for Special Consideration must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the 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 lodged no later than 5 working days before the date of the examination.

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 2006

Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of semester and prior to the commencement of the formal exam period. 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 the Student Enquiry Centre.

To change your enrolment online, please refer to [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/enrolment/changingenrolment.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/enrolment/changingenrolment.html)

Contact Details

Faculty Student Service Offices
The Faculty of Education and Arts
Room: GP1-22 (General Purpose Building)
Phone: 02 4921 5314

The Dean of Students
Dr Jennifer Archer
Phone: 02 4921 5806
Fax: 02 4921 7151
resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au
Various services are offered by the University Student Support Unit: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/studentsupport/index.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/studentsupport/index.html)

### 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](http://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:


Registrations close at the end of week 2 of semester.

### Studentmail and Blackboard: [www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/](http://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.

### Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date. Late assignments will be subject to the penalties described below.
Hard copy submission:

- **Type your assignments:** All work must be typewritten in 11 or 12 point black font. Leave a wide margin for marker’s comments, use 1.5 or double spacing, and include page numbers.
- **Word length:** The word limit of all assessment items should be strictly followed – 10% above or below is acceptable, otherwise penalties may apply.
- **Proof read your work** because spelling, grammatical and referencing mistakes will be penalised.
- **Staple the pages** of your assignment together (do not use pins or paper clips).
- **University coversheet:** All assignments must be submitted with the University coversheet: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/school/hss/studentguide/index.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/school/hss/studentguide/index.html)
- **Assignments are to be deposited at any Student Focus. Focus are located at:**
  - Level 3, Shortland Union, Callaghan
  - Level 2, Student Services Centre, Callaghan
  - Ground Floor, University House, City
  - Ground Floor, Administration Building, Ourimbah
  Any changes to this procedure will be announced during the semester.
- **Do not fax or email assignments:** Only hard copies of assignments will be considered for assessment. Inability to physically submit a hard copy of an assignment by the deadline due to other commitments or distance from campus is an unacceptable excuse. Assignments mailed to Schools are accepted from the date posted.
- **Keep a copy of all assignments:** All students must date stamp their own assignments using the machine provided. Mailed assignments to schools are date-stamped upon receipt. However, it is the student's responsibility to produce a copy of their work if the assignment goes astray after submission. Students are advised to keep updated back-ups in hard copy and on disk.

**Online copy submission to Turnitin**

In addition to hard copy submission, students are required to submit an electronic version of the following assignments to Turnitin via the course Blackboard website:

- Profile of a Musician
- Essay 1
- Essay 2

Prior to final submission, all students have the opportunity to submit one draft of their assignment to Turnitin to self-check their referencing. Assignments will not be marked until both hard copy and online versions have been submitted. Marks may be deducted for late submission of either version.

**Penalties for Late Assignments**

Assignments submitted after the due date, without an approved extension of time will be penalised by the **reduction of 5% of the possible maximum mark** for the assessment item for each day or part day that the item is late. Weekends count as one day in determining the penalty. Assessment items submitted **more than ten days** after the due date will be awarded **zero marks**.

**Special Consideration/Extension of Time Applications**

Students wishing to apply for Special Consideration or Extension of Time should obtain the appropriate form from the Student Focus: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/index.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/index.html)

**Remarks**

Students can request to have their work re-marked by the Course Coordinator or Discipline Convenor (or their delegate); three outcomes are possible: the same grade, a lower grade, or a higher grade being awarded. Students may also appeal against their final result for a course. Please consult the University policy at:

Return of Assignments
Students can collect assignments from a nominated Student Focus during office hours. Students will be informed during class which Focus to go to and the earliest date assignments will be available for collection. Students must present their student identification card to collect their assignment.

Preferred Referencing Style
In this course, it is recommended that you use the Harvard in-text (eg. Homan, 2006: 18) referencing system (similar to the APA system) for referencing sources of information used in assignments. Inadequate or incorrect reference to the work of others may be viewed as plagiarism and result in reduced marks or failure.

An in-text citation names the author of the source, gives the date of publication, and for a direct quote includes a page number, in parentheses. At the end of the paper, a list of references provides publication information about the source; the list is alphabetised by authors’ last names (or by titles for works without authors). Further information on referencing and general study skills can be obtained from:

Student Representatives
We are very interested in your feedback and suggestions for improvement. Student Representatives are the channel of communication between students and the School Board. Contact details of Student Representatives can be found on the School website.

Student Communication
Students should discuss any course related matters with the Course Coordinator in the first instance and then the relevant Discipline or Program Convenor. If this proves unsatisfactory, they should then contact the Head of School if required. Contact details can be found on the School website.

Essential Online Information for Students
Information on Class and Exam Timetables, Tutorial Online Registration, Learning Support, Campus Maps, Careers information, Counselling, the Health Service and a range of free Student Support Services can be found at:

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<tr>
<th>Grading guide</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>49% or less</td>
<td>Fail (FF) An unacceptable effort, including non-completion. The student has not understood the basic principles of the subject matter and/or has been unable to express their understanding in a comprehensible way. Deficient in terms of answering the question, research, referencing and correct presentation (spelling, grammar etc). May include extensive plagiarism.</td>
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<tr>
<td>50% to 64%</td>
<td>Pass (P) The work demonstrates a reasonable attempt to answer the question, shows some grasp of the basic principles of the subject matter and a basic knowledge of the required readings, is comprehensible, accurate and adequately referenced.</td>
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<tr>
<td>65% to 74%</td>
<td>Credit (C) The work demonstrates a clear understanding of the question, a capacity to integrate research into the discussion, and a critical appreciation of a range of different theoretical perspectives. A deficiency in any of the above may be compensated by evidence of independent thought. The work is coherent and accurate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>75% to 84%</td>
<td>Distinction (D) Evidence of substantial additional reading and/or research, and evidence of the ability to generalise from the theoretical content to develop an argument in an informed and original manner. The work is well organised, clearly expressed and shows a capacity for critical analysis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>85% upwards</td>
<td>High Distinction (HD) All of the above, plus a thorough understanding of the subject matter based on substantial additional reading and/or research. The work shows a high level of independent thought, presents informed and insightful discussion of the topic, particularly the theoretical issues involved, and demonstrates a well-developed capacity for critical analysis.</td>
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## SCHEDULE

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<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>July 17</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>July 24</td>
<td>Popular Music: Histories &amp; Theories</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>July 31</td>
<td>The Music Industry</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>August 7</td>
<td>Music Genres</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>August 14</td>
<td>The ‘Creative’ Musician</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>August 21</td>
<td>Sounding Out The City</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>August 28</td>
<td>Race, Rhythm and Politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>September 4</td>
<td>Fandom: Scenes &amp; Subcultures</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>September 11</td>
<td>Popular Music &amp; Gender</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>September 18</td>
<td>Governmental As Anything: Censorship</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>September 25</td>
<td>Governmental As Anything: Music Policy</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Mid-Semester Recess:</strong> Monday 2 October – Friday 14 October</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>October 16</td>
<td>Rage Against the Machine: Technologies</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>October 23</td>
<td>Celebrity &amp; Simulation: Music Tributes</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>October 30</td>
<td>No course seminar</td>
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<td><strong>Examination period:</strong> Monday 6 November – Friday 24 November</td>
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## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

### WEEK 1  
**Introduction**

19 July

### WEEK 2  
**Popular Music: Histories & Theories**

26 July

*Reading:*


### WEEK 3  
**The Music Industry**

2 August

*Reading:*

**WEEK 4  Music Genres**  
9 August

**Reading:**  


**WEEK 5  The ‘Creative’ Musician**  
16 August

**Reading:**  


**WEEK 6  Sounding Out the City**  
23 August

**Reading:**  


**WEEK 7  Race, Rhythm and Politics**  
30 August

**Reading:**  


**WEEK 8  Fandom: Scenes & Subcultures**  
6 September

**Reading:**  

WEEK 9  Popular Music & Gender
13 September

Reading:


WEEK 10  Governmental As Anything: Censorship
20 September

Reading:


WEEK 11  Governmental As Anything: Policy
27 September

Reading:


Mid-Semester Recess: 2 - 14 October 2006

WEEK 12  Rage Against the Machine: Technologies
18 October

Reading:


WEEK 13  Celebrity and Simulation: Music Tributes
25 October

Reading:

WEEK 14 Course Review
1 November

Course review and chat.

References


ABC TV (2003) *Love is in the air* (video, episodes 1-5).

ABC TV (2005) *Get up, stand up: the history of pop and politics*. Producers: Rudi Dolezal & Hannes Rossacher; a DoRo production. (video series)


**Journals**

- Continuum
- Cultural Studies
- Cultural Studies Review
- Entertainment Law
- European Journal of Cultural Studies
- Journal of Popular Culture
- Media and Culture Review
- Media and Media
- Media, Culture & Society
- Media International
- Media, Culture & Society
- Music and Media
- Musicology Australia
- Perfect Beat
- Popular Music
- Popular Music & Society