CMNS 321: The Cultural Production of Popular Music

Course Description

In this course we will be examining cultural, technological, and political economic practices that have come to shape the production and consumption of popular music. Drawing upon a number of theoretical positions, we will look at the competing discourses, subject positions, cultural practices and ideologies that surround popular music. From the 19th century virtuoso to the current era of transnational digital production and consumption, we will trace how industrial organization, aesthetics and imagery, social protest and resistance, technology and individual style have come to constitute popular music. The overall goal of this course is to provide students with a vocabulary and an interpretive framework to understand the global popular music industry and the variety of ways in which popular music is socially and culturally constructed.

Readings
All required readings are available through the course website

Assignments & Grading

Midterm Exam – 25%
Performance Review – 20%
Paper Proposal – 5%
Term Paper – 30%
Tutorial Presentation – 10%
Attendance/Participation – 10%
Overview of Assignments & Exams

**Midterm Exam**: in class, Feb 18 — 25%
This will be an in-class midterm exam that will be comprised mostly of multiple choice, short answer and short essay questions.

**Performance Review**: due in lecture, March 4 — 20%
This assignment is a reflexively-written three page review of a live concert or musical performance attended during the semester. Detailed assignment requirements will be provided.

**Paper Proposal**: due in lecture, March 18 — 5%
This will be a one page overview of the term paper you are proposing to write. You must demonstrate how the paper will be organized and list 5 preliminary sources that will be consulted (at least 3 academic sources, and at least one source that is not listed on course syllabus).

Late Paper Proposals will **not be accepted**: they will receive an automatic zero.

**Term Paper**: due in lecture, April 8 — 30%
3000-4000 Words; **use APA Style**
The term paper is the major component of the course. Thus, it is important to begin thinking about potential topics, directions or debates that interest you and to begin to formulate ideas quite early on in the semester in order to properly locate relevant research material. A good place to begin (other than course readings) is with articles in various journals that deal with popular music (*Journal of Popular Music Studies, Popular Music, Popular Music & Society*). Please take advantage of office hours to talk about the ideas you’ve been thinking about and to receive feedback and suggestions for further research.

**Tutorial Presentation** — 10%
Each student will be expected to deliver one presentation in tutorial with a partner(s). Your TA will provide details and arrange the presentation schedule during the first tutorial.

**Attendance/Participation** — 10%
This grade is based upon participation in tutorials and general attendance. Your TA will speak to this during the first tutorial.

**Late Assignments**
Late assignments are penalized **5% per day** late (including weekends). Please speak to your TA if an extension is required. Barring exceptional circumstances, absolutely no extensions will be given **48 hours** prior to the due date of any assignment. **Late Paper Proposals will not be accepted**: they will receive an automatic zero.
SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

Week 1

Jan 7: Studying the Cultural Production of Popular Music

Week 2

Jan 14: The Pre-History of ‘Popular’ Music

Suggested Readings

Week 3

Jan 21: The Recording Industry in the 20th Century

Suggested Readings
Week 4

**Jan 28: Power Struggles: Record Labels and the Future of a Global 'Music Industry'**


**Suggested Readings**


International Federation of the Phonographic Industry, Digital Music Report 2014, Available at:


Week 5

**Feb 4: Keepin' it Real: Authenticity & Selling Out**


**Suggested Readings**


**Feb 11: Reading Break: No lecture/tutorials**
Week 6

**Feb 18 ~ Mid-Term Exam (in class) ~ (no tutorials)**

Week 7

**Feb 25: Performing Gender**


*Suggested Readings*


Week 8

*****PERFORMANCE REVIEW DUE*****

**March 4: Music & Politics I: Adorno’s View**


*Suggested Readings*


Week 9

**March 11: Music & Politics II: The View from the Dancefloor**


*Suggested Readings*


Week 10***PAPER PROPOSAL DUE***

**March 18: Hip Hop as Globalization & the Globalization of Hip Hop**


*Suggested Readings*


Week 11

**March 25: ‘Pop Will Eat Itself’: Retromania and ‘Progress’ in Popular Music**

**Suggested Readings**

Week 12

**April 1: Algorithmic Culture: Streaming and Big Data**

**Suggested Readings**

Week 13

**April 8: Semester Review***TERM PAPER DUE (in class) ***(no tutorials)****

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VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT PLAGIARISM

*Please read this document very carefully - - especially section 3.0. If you do not understand anything on these two pages, ASK YOUR PROFESSOR FOR CLARIFICATION. If you do something prohibited by this policy and claim that you did not know you were not supposed to do it or that you did not understand the policy, you will still be held responsible. It is your responsibility to make sure you understand these regulations.*

**SUBJECT: CODE OF ACADEMIC HONESTY**

1.0 STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE
All members of the University community share the responsibility for the academic standards and reputation of the University. Academic honest is a cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge. Academic honest is a condition of continued membership in the university community.

2.0 ACADEMIC DISHONESTY
Academic dishonesty, like other forms of dishonesty, is misrepresentation with intent to deceive or without regard to the source or the accuracy of statements or findings. Academic dishonesty, in whatever form, is ultimately destructive of the values of the University; it is furthermore unfair and discouraging to the majority of students who pursue their studies honestly. Scholarly integrity is required of all members of the University.

3.0 FORMS OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY
The illustrations presented below are considered to be representative but not definitive nor exhaustive of activities which could be considered to constitute academic dishonesty.

(a) Plagiarism is a form of dishonesty in which an individual submits or presents the work of another person as his or her own. Scholarship quite properly rests upon examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. However, when excerpts are used in paragraphs or essays, the author must be acknowledged using an accepted format for the underlying discipline. Footnotes, endnotes, references and bibliographies must be complete. Plagiarism exists when all or part of an essay is copied from an author, or composed by another person, and presented as original work. Plagiarism also exists when there is inadequate recognition given to the author for phrases, sentences, or ideas of the author incorporated into an essay.

(b) Submitting the same essay, presentation, or assignment more than once whether the earlier submission was at this or another institution, unless prior approval has been obtained.

(c) Cheating on an examination or falsifying material subject to academic evaluation. This includes the unauthorized sharing of material, e.g. two or more students using the same textbook during an “open book” examination; or the use of course notes or any aids not approved by an instructor during a “closed book” examination; unauthorized possession or use of an examination or assignment. This also includes the submission of identical or virtually identical assignments by students who studied together.

(d) Submitting as one’s original work, essays, presentations or assignments which were purchased or otherwise acquired from another source.

(e) Using or attempting to use other students’ answers; providing answers to other students; or failing to take reasonable measures to protect your answers from use by students in assignments, projects or examinations.

(f) Impersonating a candidate in an examination or availing oneself of the results of such impersonation.

(g) Submitting false records or information, in writing or orally. This includes the falsification or submission of false laboratory results, documents, transcripts or other academic credentials.

(h) Stealing or destroying the work of another student.

(i) Removing books or other library material without authorization, or mutilating or misplacing library materials, or engaging in other actions which deprive other members of the University community of their opportunity to have access to the academic resources of the library.

(j) Unauthorized or inappropriate use of computers, calculators, and other forms of technology in course work, assignments or examinations.

4.0 NOTIFICATION OF STANDARDS OF ACADEMIC HONESTY

All members of the University community have a responsibility to ensure that they themselves, and others, be familiar with generally accepted standards and requirements of academic honesty. These shall be published in the University Calendar and in the Registration Handbook. Ignorance of these standards will not preclude the imposition of penalties for academic dishonesty.

Course outlines and course instructors are expected to inform students at the beginning of the semester of any special criteria of academic honesty pertinent to the class or course. Failure of a course instructor to provide such special information does not in any way exempt a student from penalties imposed by or on behalf of the University under the general guidelines noted in 3.0 above.

5.0 PROCEDURES AND PENALTIES

5.1 PROCEDURES

Procedures to be followed by the University in imposing a penalty for acts of academic dishonesty or an appeal therefrom are detailed in the policy establishing the University Board on Student Discipline and in the policy establishing the Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals respectively.

5.2 TYPES OF PENALTY

Penalties imposed by the University for academic dishonesty may include one or more of the following: a warning, a verbal or written reprimand, reassessment of work, failure on a particular assignment, failure in a course, denial of admission or readmission to the University, forfeiture of University awards or financial assistance, suspension or expulsion from the University.

5.3 DETERMINATION OF PENALTIES

In deciding on the appropriate sanction to be imposed for an act of academic dishonesty, consideration may be given to the following factors:

(a) the extent of the dishonesty;

(b) the inadvertent or the deliberate character of the dishonesty;

(c) the importance of the work in question as a component of the course or program;
(d) whether the act in question is an isolated incident or part of repeated acts of academic dishonesty; and
(e) any other mitigating or aggravating circumstances.
It is your responsibility to make sure you understand these regulations. Please read each section very carefully. If you do not understand any part of the regulations, ASK YOUR PROFESSOR FOR CLARIFICATION.
In your term papers and written work, you must give proper references for your sources. If you copy something word for word from a book or article, you must indicate that it is a quote by putting it in quotation marks “like this”, and you must identify the source: author, date, page number. Even if you don’t copy something word for work - - if you paraphrase it and change some the words - - you must still identify the source: author, date, page number.
You will be guilty of plagiarism:
- if you fail to provide proper references for your sources, including page numbers;
- if you do not put quotation marks around material copied from other sources (even if it is only a part of a sentence!);
- if you do not identify the source of material that you paraphrased;
- if you copy work of another student;
- if you submit work that is identical to that submitted by a student you studied with.
If it is determined that you did any of these things, it is likely that you will suffer one or more of the following
- you may receive a failing grade in the course;
- you may receive a failing grade on the assignment you may be suspended from the university for one or more semesters you may lose any financial assistance you were receiving.

This is VERY serious business. Make sure you understand the University’s policies!
T10.01 through T10.03 (available online at http://www.sfu.ca/policies/Students/index.html)
All incidents of Academic/Intellectual Dishonesty must be reported to the School’s Director (Alison Beale), c/o her assistant, Brenda Baldwin (bebaldwi@sfu.ca 778-782-3470 room K9683). Brenda has the relevant forms to complete. Copies of the form are then forwarded to the VP’s office.