MUS 100

Experiencing Popular Music

S1 Day 2014

Dept of Media, Music & Cultural Studies

Contents

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
Adrian Renzo
adrian.renzo@mq.edu.au
Contact via adrian.renzo@mq.edu.au

Credit points
3

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit addresses the diversity, functions and roles of twentieth century music. No previous musical training or knowledge is required. The unit gives an introduction to the basic principles and elements of music (such as rhythm, melody, texture and timbre) as well as seeking to establish academic frameworks by which to examine contemporary music. It also considers the role of production and the operations of the contemporary music industry.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Describe the social and cultural influences that affect the production and reception of popular music.

Analyse the basic sonic elements of music within popular music recordings.

Explain how popular music functions in various contexts.

Summarise key research approaches in popular music studies

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Tutorial Worksheets	35%	Weekly
Peerwise	5%	Weeks 4, 6, 8, 10, 12
Article Review	25%	Week 5 (draft) and Week 6
Major Project	35%	Week 11 (draft) and Week 12

Tutorial Worksheets

Due: **Weekly**
Weighting: **35%**

Assessment Outline

Throughout the semester, you will be given tasks to complete during tutorials or as preparation for a subsequent tutorial. These tasks include:

- critical listening tests
- quizzes and/or short-answer exercises based on the required readings and lecture content
- exercises to assist you in your preparation for assignments.

Worksheet tasks will be distributed at the start of tutorials. If you are required to prepare work before your class, the worksheet will appear on iLearn by 5pm on the Friday before your class.

Requirements

Tasks need to be completed during tutorials; preparation tasks which appear on iLearn must be completed before the start of your tutorial. It is your responsibility to check iLearn to make sure that you are adequately prepared for each class. It is also expected that you will have your MUS100 unit reader with you during every tutorial.

Assessment Criteria

Marks will be awarded according to the following criteria:

- Evidence that all preparation and in-class tasks have been adequately completed
- Precision of analysis in critical listening tasks
- Evidence of engagement with required readings and lecture content
- Evidence of constructive feedback on your peers' work (noting the strengths of each task and making helpful suggestions for improvement)
- Level of prose, grammar, and syntax

Model answers will be discussed in class before the mid-semester break so that you can check your progress in this unit.

Submission Instructions

Worksheet tasks must be submitted in hard copy to Adrian Renzo at the end of the relevant class. Worksheet tasks cannot be emailed to the lecturer.

In cases where you need to submit preparatory work at the start of a tutorial, your work must be submitted no later than 15 minutes into the tutorial (eg. prior to 3.15pm for a 3.00pm class). Work will not be accepted after the 15-minute cut-off time, nor will it be accepted if it is submitted during a later class.

Extensions and Late Penalties

No extensions are granted for worksheet tasks unless a student has applied for, and received, Special Consideration (please see the Special Consideration policy under 'Policies and Procedures'). Students who fail to submit the tasks for any given worksheet in class will forefeit the marks for that worksheet.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Analyse the basic sonic elements of music within popular music recordings.
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Peerwise

Due: **Weeks 4, 6, 8, 10, 12**
Weighting: **5%**

Assessment Outline

For this assessment, you need to write your own multiple-choice questions about course content, then answer other people's questions on the online system Peerwise. Peerwise questions may appear in tutorial tasks. In other words, if you write a good question, you may see it in an assessment task later in semester. You may remain anonymous on Peerwise if you wish, but all your contributions will be identifiable by the lecturer.

Requirements

To earn marks for the Peerwise task, you need to:

- submit one (1) question and five (5) answers to Peerwise by 5pm Friday in Weeks 4, 6, 8, and 12
- provide four answer options for each question that you write
- explain why the 'correct' answer you have given is the most accurate option

- provide constructive feedback to at least one other person's question
- avoid plagiarism (you receive 0% if your questions consist of material cut-and-pasted from online or offline sources).

Sample questions are available on iLearn, along with lecturers' feedback.

Assessment Criteria

Marks will be awarded according to the following criteria:

- Evidence that you have completed all the requirements of the task
- Evidence that you have tested your peers for deep learning rather than asking them to memorise isolated facts, figures, or quotes
- Comprehensiveness of the explanation for your own questions
- Level of prose, grammar, and syntax.

During lectures, feedback will be provided on Week 4 Peerwise questions to inform your progress in this unit.

Submission Instructions

Peerwise will be available from 5pm Monday, Week 3. To use the system:

- Go to http://peerwise.cs.auckland.ac.nz/at/?mq_au
- Click on 'Registration' and follow the instructions
- The Course ID is **8395**
- Your Identifier is your Macquarie email address (eg. ewan.pearson@students.mq.edu.au).

If you need any further clarification, please watch the iLearn video 'How to Register for Peerwise'.

Extensions and Late Penalties

No extensions can be granted for this task. If you do not fulfil any requirements of the task, you will forfeit the marks for that part of the assessment.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Describe the social and cultural influences that affect the production and reception of popular music.
- Analyse the basic sonic elements of music within popular music recordings.
- Explain how popular music functions in various contexts.

Article Review

Due: **Week 5 (draft) and Week 6**
Weighting: **25%**

Assessment Outline

This assessment requires you to write 500 words about a prescribed journal article, give and receive peer feedback on the assignment during a tutorial, then upload the final version of your own assignment. A **full hard copy draft** of this assignment is due in the first 15 minutes of your Week 5 tutorial.

Requirements

- Download the required article from the library website. Full details of the article will appear on iLearn by 5pm Friday 14 March.
- Write a 500-word discussion of the reading, using the guideline questions below.
- Bring a **full, hard copy draft** of your work to class in Week 5 (2 or 3 April, depending on which tutorial you are enrolled in).
- Write feedback on your peers' assignments in class. (You will be given guidelines on how to do this.) Submit your feedback to Adrian Renzo at the end of the class.
- Revise your assignment and submit (ONLY) the final version on Turnitin/iLearn by 5pm Friday 11 April.

Guideline Questions

Note: Do not split your assignment into sub-headings for each of these questions. Simply incorporate your answers in your discussion. The most important questions are indicated with an asterisk (*).

- What is the author's main argument?*
- What kinds of sources does the author rely on as evidence?
- Identify one section where the author criticises the work of another writer. What kinds of words and/or phrases alert you that the author is offering a critique? How does the critique add to the author's own argument?*

Assessment Criteria

Marks will be allocated according to the following criteria:

- Evidence that you have discussed the main argument in your own words rather than relying heavily on paraphrasing and direct quotes
- Ability to correctly identify the author's argument, criticisms, and sources
- Evidence of constructive feedback on your peers' draft assignments, including attention to strengths of their work and constructive, specific suggestions for improvement
- Level of prose, grammar, and syntax

Submission Instructions

- Bring a **full hard copy draft** of your assignment to class in Week 5 (2 or 3 April,

depending on which tutorial you are enrolled in)

- Write feedback on your peers' assignments in class and submit this feedback to Adrian Renzo at the end of the tutorial.

- Submit a final, revised version of your own assignment on Turnitin/iLearn by 5pm Friday 11 April. For a guide to using Turnitin, please go to: https://www.mq.edu.au/iLearn/ student_info/assignments.htm

Extensions and Late Penalties

No late drafts are accepted because the drafts are necessary for a peer-review process. If you miss the deadline for the draft (ie: the first 15 minutes of your tutorial), you forfeit the marks for the draft. You are not permitted to attend a different tutorial than usual in order to submit your assignment.

Final versions up to one (1) week late will receive a 10% deduction of the total marks possible. Final versions up to two (2) weeks late will receive a 20% deduction of the total marks possible. Final versions submitted more than two (2) weeks late will not be accepted.

Extensions on the final version may be granted at the convenor's discretion and if the student has applied for, and been granted, Special Consideration. Please see the Special Consideration policy under 'Policies and Procedures'.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Describe the social and cultural influences that affect the production and reception of popular music.

- Explain how popular music functions in various contexts.

- Summarise key research approaches in popular music studies

Major Project

Due: **Week 11 (draft) and Week 12**
Weighting: **35%**

Assignment Outline

The major project may be in the form of:

- an essay

- a live performance and exegesis

- a recording and exegesis.

The project must demonstrate solid engagement with the theoretical content of MUS100. A **full hard copy draft** of this assignment must be submitted in the first 15 minutes of your tutorial in Week 11.

Requirements

Essays:

- Essays must be 1500 words (plus or minus 100 words, including all in-text references, not including bibliography).
- Essays must address one of the set topics available on iLearn. Topics will appear on iLearn by the mid-semester break.
- Essays must include a minimum of three (3) scholarly sources.
- Essays should adhere to the MUS100 Referencing Guide available on iLearn.

Live Performances:

- Live performances need to be approved and scheduled by Adrian Renzo by the end of **Week 5**. If you are planning to make your project a performance, please email Adrian Renzo by 5pm Friday 4 April and provide him with the following details: instrument; number of backing musicians and/or format of backing track; technical requirements (instruments, amplification, etc); description of music (original composition or cover version? song, DJ set, or other format?). Any live performance projects which have not been approved in writing by 5pm Friday 11 April cannot be marked.
- Live performances must be between three and four minutes' duration (for songs), or up to ten minutes' duration for DJ sets.
- Live performances must demonstrate proficiency at using the voice, another instrument, or a piece of software such as Ableton Live.
- Live performances need to be accompanied by a 600-word exegesis. This document applies one or more theories from MUS100 to the creative work. For example, you may explain how your performance demonstrates McInytre's theory of creativity (Week 13), how your DJ mini-mix relates to Lacasse's idea of 'intertextual' music (Week 9), or which ideas of 'vocality' inform your vocal performance (Week 8).
- The exegesis should adhere to the MUS100 Referencing Guide available on iLearn.

Recordings:

- Recordings projects need to be approved by Adrian Renzo by the end of **Week 5**. If you are planning to make your project a recording, please email Adrian Renzo by 5pm Friday 4 April and advise him of whether you will be recording an original composition or a cover version, and whether your project will consist of a song, a DJ set, or some other

format. Recording projects which have not been approved in writing by 5pm Friday 11 April cannot be marked.

- Recordings must be between three and four minutes' duration (for songs) or up to ten minutes' duration (for DJ sets).
- Recordings must be constructed in Ableton Live software (version 7, 8 or 9). You will need to use your own personal copy of the software.
- You must submit both a rendered version of the finished audio (eg. as a WAV file or MP3 file) and the original Ableton Live project files.
- Recordings need to be accompanied by a 600-word exegesis. This document applies one or more theories from MUS100 to the creative work. For example, you may explain how your recording demonstrates McInytre's theory of creativity (Week 13), how your DJ set relates to Lacasse's idea of 'intertextual' music (Week 9), or which ideas of 'vocality' inform your vocal recording (Week 8).
- The exegesis should adhere to the MUS100 Referencing Guide available on iLearn.

Assessment Criteria

Marks for the essay will be allocated as follows:

- Effectiveness of structure and organisation of argument
- Originality of argument
- Evidence of solid engagement with the themes of MUS100
- Formatting
- Level of prose, grammar and syntax.

Marks for performances or recordings will be allocated as follows:

- Competence using a given instrument or Ableton Live software
- Originality of submission
- Evidence of solid engagement with the themes of MUS100
- Evidence of research
- Level of prose, grammar and syntax.

Whichever type of submission you choose, you may be asked to meet with Adrian Renzo for a *viva voce*, to elaborate on your research and/or music-making process.

Submission Instructions

Essays

- A **full hard copy draft** of the essay is due in the first 15 minutes of your Week 11 tutorial for peer review.
- The final version of your essay is due on Turnitin/iLearn by 5pm Friday 6 June. For a

guide to using Turnitin, please go to: https://www.mq.edu.au/iLearn/student_info/
assignments.htm

- The final submission needs to include a cover sheet.

Live Performances

- You may be asked to perform your work during the Week 11 tutorials for peer review.

- A **full hard copy draft** of your exegesis is due in the first 15 minutes of your Week 11
  tutorial.

- Any live performances will be scheduled on an evening in Week 12 (2-6 June). The date
  and time will be confirmed on iLearn by 5pm Friday 23 May.

- The final version of the exegesis is due on Turnitin/iLearn by 5pm Friday 6 June. For a
  guide to using Turnitin, please go to: https://www.mq.edu.au/iLearn/student_info/
  assignments.htm

- The final submission needs to include a cover sheet.

Recordings

- You may be asked to play your work during the Week 11 tutorials for peer review.

- A **full hard copy draft** of your exegesis is due in the first 15 minutes of your Week 11
  tutorial.

- The final version of your project (including project files) and the exegesis are due on
  Turnitin/iLearn by 5pm Friday 6 June.

- The final submission needs to include a cover sheet.

Extensions and Late Penalties

No late drafts are accepted because the drafts are necessary for a peer-review process. If you
miss the deadline for the draft (ie: the first 15 minutes of your tutorial), you forfeit the marks for
the draft. You are not permitted to attend a different tutorial than usual in order to submit your
assignment.

Final versions up to one (1) week late will receive a 10% deduction of the total marks possible.
Final versions up to two (2) weeks late will receive a 20% deduction of the total marks possible.
Final versions submitted more than two (2) weeks late will not be accepted.

Extensions on the final version may be granted at the convenor's discretion and if the student
has applied for, and been granted, Special Consideration. Please see the Special Consideration
policy under 'Policies and Procedures'.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Describe the social and cultural influences that affect the production and reception of
  popular music.

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- Explain how popular music functions in various contexts.

- Summarise key research approaches in popular music studies

Delivery and Resources

Delivery Mode

Day

Lecture Times

All lecture times and classrooms are available on the MQ Timetables website:
http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au

Unit Requirements

In order to pass this unit, students need to attend all lectures and tutorials, and need to submit all assignments on time. A 3-credit point unit equates to 9 hours of work per week. Therefore, it is expected that you will spend 1 hour per week attending a lecture, 1 hour per week attending a tutorial, and an average of 7 hours per week in private study.

Required and Recommended Readings

Required readings are available in the MUS100 Course Reader, available from the Co-op Bookshop. If the reader is temporarily out of stock at the Bookshop, please see iLearn for information on how to access the early weeks' readings.

Technologies Used and Required

The assignments in this unit require word-processing skills and access to a web browser. Students who choose to perform music for their major project are expected to provide their own backing track, support musicians, and equipment as needed. Students who choose to submit a recording are expected to use their own copy of Ableton Live software (version 7, 8 or 9).

Students will also be expected to submit hard copy (written) work in class, and should therefore be equipped with writing materials at all times.

Changes Made to MUS100 in 2014

The web-based tool Peerwise has been added to this unit to help students prepare for tutorial tasks. Two assessment tasks now require full drafts to be submitted prior to the due date, in order to facilitate a peer-review process.

Unit Schedule

Topic schedule and additional materials will be available in iLearn.

Learning and Teaching Activities

Peerwise

Students will write their own multiple-choice questions about unit content, answer their peers' questions, and provide feedback on their peers' work.

Aropa Paragraph

Students will submit their own paragraph on a prescribed question to Aropa (an online peer-evaluation system). They will then review three other paragraphs and provide constructive feedback on those paragraphs.

Tutorial Activities

Written tasks will be submitted during tutorials and will contribute to a 10% tutorial mark.

Essay/Creative project

Students will submit a 1500 essay (or an equivalent creative project with a 500-word explanation) based on the themes of MUS100.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html

Grading Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html

Grade Appeal Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the Learning and Teaching Category of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Email Communication

Please note that we treat your Macquarie University email address as an official mode of communication. No concessions will be made for students who fail to check their university email Inbox.

Extensions

Extensions are only granted at the discretion of the convenor and in cases where students have applied for, and been granted, Special Consideration. Please see the Special Consideration policy above for further information.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where

relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Describe the social and cultural influences that affect the production and reception of popular music.
- Analyse the basic sonic elements of music within popular music recordings.
- Explain how popular music functions in various contexts.
- Summarise key research approaches in popular music studies

Assessment tasks

- Tutorial Worksheets
- Peerwise
- Article Review
- Major Project

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Describe the social and cultural influences that affect the production and reception of popular music.
- Analyse the basic sonic elements of music within popular music recordings.
- Explain how popular music functions in various contexts.
- Summarise key research approaches in popular music studies

Assessment tasks

- Tutorial Worksheets
- Article Review
- Major Project

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Describe the social and cultural influences that affect the production and reception of popular music.
- Analyse the basic sonic elements of music within popular music recordings.
- Explain how popular music functions in various contexts.
- Summarise key research approaches in popular music studies

Assessment tasks

- Article Review
- Major Project

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Describe the social and cultural influences that affect the production and reception of popular music.
- Analyse the basic sonic elements of music within popular music recordings.
- Explain how popular music functions in various contexts.
- Summarise key research approaches in popular music studies

Assessment tasks

- Tutorial Worksheets
- Major Project

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to

read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Describe the social and cultural influences that affect the production and reception of popular music.
- Analyse the basic sonic elements of music within popular music recordings.
- Explain how popular music functions in various contexts.
- Summarise key research approaches in popular music studies

Assessment tasks

- Tutorial Worksheets
- Peerwise
- Article Review
- Major Project