



PSY 250

Music, Mind and Message

S1 Day 2014

Psychology

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

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Credit points

3

Prerequisites

24cp

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

The music industry is among the largest worldwide, and music is a pervasive part of our lives. We turn on music while driving, we listen to music at parties, bars and restaurants. We dance to music, shop to music, sing in the shower, and attend concerts. Yet the psychological and social significance of this aspect of our lives is not widely understood. The goal of this unit is to expose students to the psychological and semiotic dimensions of music in everyday experience. The unit examines current psychological research on music, and explores the social significance of music using a semiotic approach. By the end of the unit, students have an understanding of the cognitive and emotional implications of music, and have the semiotic skills to critically analyse the layers of significance associated with a range of musical genres, from hip-hop and heavy metal, to opera and chamber music.

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:

Have drawn on their personal experience of engaging with music (as consumer, performer, teacher, etc) to develop their understanding of how humans think, feel and communicate with each other.

Have an understanding of music as a multimodal communicative (semiotic) practice

Have an understanding of human capacities of perception, memory, affect, mutual understanding and co-operation, which underpin musical expression and appreciation

Have a general understanding of how music from different cultures and different historical periods has varied, and how this variation forms part of the changing cultural and psychological context of human societies

Be able to use key concepts from linguistics and psychology to describe different kinds of music in terms of the symbolic resources that are drawn on to achieve each piece/song's purpose as a communicative event

For text-based music, explain how key features of the language (in lyrics) reflect or resonate with – or sometimes set up oppositions with – key features of the music itself

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>Group project</u>	30%	TBA
<u>Early assessment</u>	20%	TBA
<u>Project write-up</u>	10%	TBA
<u>Final exam</u>	40%	Exam period

Group project

Due: **TBA**

Weighting: **30%**

The Group Audio-Visual Project provides students with an opportunity to apply skills and knowledge they have gained in the unit in a creative group task. Each student is assigned a particular role within the group and is marked for their contribution in that role. The project is due in week 12.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Have a general understanding of how music from different cultures and different historical periods has varied, and how this variation forms part of the changing cultural and psychological context of human societies

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Early assessment

Due: **TBA**

Weighting: **20%**

The midterm test is a 45-minute multiple-choice examination that will be held in class during week 4. The test assesses your understanding of lecture topics and reading materials in weeks 1-3 only, providing a low-risk means of evaluating your potential early in the course.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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Project write-up

Due: **TBA**

Weighting: **10%**

This assessment task provides students with the opportunity to reflect on their group project, to identify strengths and weakness of group members. Although the audio-visual project is completed in groups, the write up must be your own individual work. The final completed write-up is due in week 13 at the tutorial but you are expected to make some contributions to the write-up each week.

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- Have a general understanding of how music from different cultures and different historical periods has varied, and how this variation forms part of the changing cultural and psychological context of human societies
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Final exam

Due: **Exam period**

Weighting: **40%**

A three-hour examination comprised of short-answer and multiple-choice answer questions. The examination provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate their breadth of knowledge. All unit material is examinable. It provides a final summative assessment of the students' understanding of unit content and their ability to apply that knowledge.

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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/

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

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to

demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Have drawn on their personal experience of engaging with music (as consumer, performer, teacher, etc) to develop their understanding of how humans think, feel and communicate with each other.
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Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Have a general understanding of how music from different cultures and different historical periods has varied, and how this variation forms part of the changing cultural and psychological context of human societies
- Be able to use key concepts from linguistics and psychology to describe different kinds of music in terms of the symbolic resources that are drawn on to achieve each piece/song's purpose as a communicative event

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

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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.

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Learning outcomes

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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

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- Be able to use key concepts from linguistics and psychology to describe different kinds of music in terms of the symbolic resources that are drawn on to achieve each piece/song's purpose as a communicative event

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.

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Learning outcomes

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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

- Have an understanding of music as a multimodal communicative (semiotic) practice
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Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Have a general understanding of how music from different cultures and different historical periods has varied, and how this variation forms part of the changing cultural and psychological context of human societies

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Have a general understanding of how music from different cultures and different historical periods has varied, and how this variation forms part of the changing cultural and psychological context of human societies