MUS 100
Experiencing Popular Music
S1 Day 2016

Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies

Contents

General Information 2
Learning Outcomes 2
Assessment Tasks 3
Delivery and Resources 9
Unit Schedule 10
Policies and Procedures 10
Graduate Capabilities 11
Changes from Previous Offering 14

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http://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/58945/unit_guide/print
General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Lecturer and Tutor
Dr Adrian Renzo
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Contact via adrian.renzo@mq.edu.au
Y3A-155
Consultations available by appointment

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 http://students.mq.edu.au/student_admin/enrolmentguide/academicdates/

Learning Outcomes

1. Describe the social and cultural influences that affect the production and reception of popular music.
2. Analyse the basic sonic elements of music within popular music recordings.
3. Explain how popular music functions in various contexts.
4. Summarise key research approaches in popular music studies.
**Assessment Tasks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial Worksheets</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>In class, weeks 2-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Tests</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Weeks 6 and 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Project</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Weeks 9-11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tutorial Worksheets**

Due: **In class, weeks 2-8**  
Weighting: **30%**

**Assessment Outline**

You will be given tasks to complete during tutorials or as preparation for tutorials. These tasks include:

- questions based on the required readings and lecture content  
- critical listening tasks  
- exercises to assist you with your assignments.

Any preparatory worksheet tasks will appear on iLearn by 5pm on the Friday of the week *before* your class.

**Requirements**

Preparation tasks which appear on iLearn must be completed before the start of your tutorial. Tasks distributed in class need to be completed during tutorials (unless advised otherwise by your tutor). It is your responsibility to check iLearn to make sure that you are prepared for each class. It is also expected that you will have the required readings for each week with you during each tutorial.

Unless otherwise advised, a short paragraph (i.e. 150-250 words) will suffice for each question on the preparation sheet. You should acknowledge any sources cited. Unless specifically asked to, you do not need to include external scholarly sources in your worksheets.

**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 written engagement with required readings and lecture content.
Model answers will be discussed in class before the mid-session break so that you can check your progress in this unit.

**Submission Instructions**

Worksheets may be handwritten or printed, and must be submitted in hard copy to the tutor in the relevant class. Preparatory work must be submitted no later than 15 minutes into the tutorial (e.g. prior to 1.15pm for a 1.00pm class). Preparatory work submitted after the 15-minute cut-off time will not be marked. In addition, tutorial tasks (preparatory or otherwise) will not be marked if they are:

- submitted during a class for which you are not officially enrolled
- submitted via email (before, during, or after your scheduled tutorial)

**Extensions and Late Penalties**

No extensions are granted for worksheet tasks unless a student has submitted a Disruption to Studies form (please see the Disruption to Studies policy and procedure in the University Handbook). Students who fail to submit the tasks for any given worksheet in class will forfeit the marks for that worksheet.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

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

Due: **Weeks 6 and 10**

Weighting: **20%**

**Assignment Outline**

This assignment involves two closed-book, in-class tests. Each test consists of a number of multiple-choice questions based on the required readings and on the lecture content. The Week 6 test may be based on any material from Weeks 1-6. The Week 10 test may be based on any material from Weeks 1-10.

**Requirements**

The Class Tests will be administered during tutorials.

**Assessment Criteria**

Marks will be awarded according to the number of questions answered correctly.
Submission Instructions

Class Tests will be distributed at the start of tutorials in Weeks 6 and 10. Each test will last between 10 and 20 minutes. All Class Tests will be collected in class. There will be no opportunity to complete the tests online.

Extensions and Late Penalties

Students who miss a Class Test will forfeit the marks for that test. Where a Disruption to Studies application has been approved, marks will be allocated on the basis of the remaining Class Test.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Describe the social and cultural influences that affect the production and reception of popular music.
- Explain how popular music functions in various contexts.

Major Project

Due: Weeks 9-11
Weighting: 50%

Assignment Outline

The major project must address one of the topics in the Major Project Guide, which will be available on iLearn by 5pm 21 March. The project must demonstrate engagement with the theoretical content of MUS100.

The major project may be in the form of:

- an essay
- a live performance and exegesis
- a recording and exegesis.

A full hard copy version of this assignment (either an essay or an exegesis) must be submitted in the first 15 minutes of your tutorial in Week 9.

Requirements

Essays:

- Essays must be 1700 words (plus or minus 100 words, including all in-text references, not including reference list).
- Essays must address one of the set topics available in the Major Project Guide (available on iLearn).
- Essays must include a minimum of four (4) scholarly sources.
- Essays must follow the Referencing Guide available on iLearn.
Live Performances:

- If you are planning to perform as part of your Major Project, please email a project proposal to Adrian Renzo by 5pm **Monday 4 April**. You need to provide the following details:
  - the instrument you are playing
  - the number of backing musicians and the instruments they are playing (and/or format of backing track), if applicable
  - technical requirements (e.g. instruments, amplification, etc)
  - description of music (i.e.: original composition or cover version? song or DJ set?)
  - title of performance.
- Proposals missing any of the details above will be declined.
- Proposals received after 17:00:00 Monday 4 April will be declined.
- It is possible to *remove* technical requirements after Monday 4 April (e.g. "keyboard no longer required"). It is not possible to *add* technical requirements after Monday 4 April.
- 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 or another instrument or a piece of software such as Ableton Live.
- Live performances must be accompanied by an 800-word exegesis, which must address one of the exegesis questions in the Major Project Guide (available on iLearn).
- The exegesis must follow the Referencing Guide available on iLearn.

Recordings:

- If you are planning to produce a recording as part of your Major Project, please email a project proposal to Adrian Renzo by 5pm **Monday 4 April**. You need to provide the following details:
  - the name of the software and/or hardware you will be using
  - description of the music (i.e.: original composition or cover version? song or DJ set?)
  - title of the work.
- Proposals missing any of the above details will be declined.
- Proposals received after 17:00:00 Monday 4 April will be declined.
- Recordings must be between three and four minutes' duration (for songs) or up to ten minutes' duration (for DJ mixsets).
- Recordings may be constructed in the software of your choice. You will need to use your own personal copy of the software.
Your submission should include:
  ◦ WAV files of the stems of your work
  ◦ screenshots of key sections of your work as represented in your digital audio
    workstation
  ◦ a WAV file of the finished product.
• You may be asked to submit the original project files of your work.
• Recordings must be accompanied by an 800-word exegesis, which must address one of
  the exegesis questions in the Major Project Guide (available on iLearn).
• The exegesis must follow the Referencing Guide available on iLearn.

**Assessment Criteria**

Marks for the essay will be allocated as follows:

• Argument and evidence
• Research and referencing
• Effectiveness of structure
• Level of written expression.

Marks for performances or recordings will be allocated as follows:

• Competence using a given instrument or piece of software
• Originality of submission
• Research and referencing
• Level of written expression.

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 version of the essay is due in the first 15 minutes of your Week 9
  tutorial for peer review. The version you bring to class must be complete (including all
  references and reference list). Dot-point plans and incomplete essay fragments will not
  count towards your mark.
• The final version of your essay is due on Turnitin/iLearn by 17:00:00 Tuesday 24 May.
  For a guide to using Turnitin, please visit: https://www.mq.edu.au/iLearn/student_info/
  assignments.htm
• Your first submission on Turnitin is final. Please check that you are submitting the correct
  file. Any requests for resubmission will be declined.
Live Performances

- You may be asked to perform your work during the Week 9 tutorials for peer review.
- A full hard copy version of your exegesis is due in the first 15 minutes of your Week 9 tutorial. The version you bring to class must be complete (including all references and reference list). Dot-point plans and incomplete exegesis fragments will not count towards your mark.
- Live performances will be scheduled in Weeks 10-11. The date and time will be confirmed on iLearn by 5pm Tuesday 26 April.
- The final version of the exegesis is due on Turnitin/iLearn by 17:00:00 Tuesday 24 May. For a guide to using Turnitin, please visit: https://www.mq.edu.au/iLearn/student_info/assignments.htm
- Your first exegesis submission on Turnitin is final. Please check that you are submitting the correct file. Any requests for resubmission will be declined.

Recordings

- You may be asked to play your work during the Week 9 tutorials for peer review.
- A full hard copy version of your exegesis is due in the first 15 minutes of your Week 9 tutorial. The version you bring to class must be complete (including all references and reference list). Dot-point plans and incomplete exegesis fragments will not count towards your mark.
- The final version of your project (including all files and exegesis) is due by 17:00:00 Tuesday 24 May. The exegesis must be submitted through iLearn/Turnitin. The project itself (including WAV files of the stems of your work, screenshots of your work in a digital audio workstation, and a WAV version of the finished product), must be submitted to your tutor on a flash drive or other storage device.
- Your first exegesis submission on Turnitin is final. Please check that you are submitting the correct file. Any requests for resubmission will be declined.

Extensions and Late Penalties

There are no extensions on the peer-review version of your essay/exegesis. If you miss the first deadline (i.e. the first 15 minutes of your Week 9 tutorial), you forfeit the marks for the peer-review session. You are not permitted to attend a different tutorial than the one you are enrolled in to submit your assignment, nor are you permitted to email the draft to your tutor/lecturer.

The final submission on Turnitin will attract a late penalty of 10% of the total possible mark per day (including weekends and public holidays). Assignments submitted 10 days late (or more) will not be accepted.
Please note that late penalties accrue from 17:00:01 on the due date. It is strongly recommended that you aim to submit your work one day early.

Extensions on the final version may be granted at the convenor's discretion and if you have submitted an application for Disruption to Studies. Please see the 'Disruption to Studies' policy: http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html

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### Delivery and Resources

#### Delivery Mode

Day (Internal)

Classes run from Weeks 1-10. (Due dates may fall in Week 11.) Weeks 1-10 will include a face-to-face lecture. Weeks 2-10 will include a tutorial (public holidays permitting). In addition, several weeks will feature an online lecture. Please check iLearn regularly to ensure that you are up to date with all content.

#### Class Times

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

#### Unit Requirements

A 3-credit point unit equates to an average of 10 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 8 hours per week in private study. Private study may include taking notes on your readings in preparation for in-class tests, preparing for assignments, and completion of preparatory worksheets.

#### Required Readings

Required readings will be listed on iLearn. All required readings will be available through the library's MultiSearch function.

#### Technologies Used and Required

The assignments in this unit require word-processing skills and access to a web browser. Students will be expected to submit written material in class, and should therefore be equipped with writing materials at all times.
Unit Schedule
Topic schedule and additional materials will be available on iLearn.

Lectures for this unit begin in Week 1.

Tutorials for this unit begin in Week 2.

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:


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/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

Results
Results shown in iLearn, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

Additional Information
MMCCS website:
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
• Class Tests
• 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.

Assessment tasks

• Tutorial Worksheets
• Class Tests
• 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

• Explain how popular music functions in various contexts.
• Summarise key research approaches in popular music studies.

Assessment tasks

• Tutorial Worksheets
• Class Tests
• 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 outcome

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

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
• Class Tests
• Major Project

Changes from Previous Offering
An "Article Discussion" assessment has been replaced by two Class Tests.