

MDIA 205 Popular Music Studies

Trimester 3 2011

14 November to 20 December 2011

20 Points

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates: 14 November to 14 December 2011

Last piece of assessment due: 20 December 2011

WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Staff	Email	Phone	Room
Lauren Anderson	lauren.anderson@vuw.ac.nz	463 6824	Room 311, 83 Fairlie Terrace

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures

Mondays and Wednesdays 1pm - 3pm Room 306, 77 Fairlie Terrace

Tutorials

Wednesdays 4pm Room 203, 83 Fairlie Terrace

Thursdays 10am, 11am, 1pm Room 203, 83 Fairlie Terrace

Tutorials begin in *WEEK 1*. Enrol at <https://signups.victoria.ac.nz/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2findex.aspx>

COURSE DELIVERY

There are ten (10) lectures & five (5) tutorials. See the schedule for details.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, please set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

Additional information will be posted on Blackboard. Only the main course guidelines lecture slides are on Blackboard; due to issues of copyright and intellectual property, the full lectures are not posted there.

COURSE PRESCRIPTION

A critical introduction to the study of popular music, with an emphasis on post-1950s rock and pop music and its subsequent genres. Topics covered include the international and New Zealand music industry; music scene, stars and authorship; audiences, subcultures, and fandom; textual and genre analysis; and music and cultural politics.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify issues and views or theories that relate to popular music culture and the various forms it takes.
- Describe and explain the key features of: the nature and interaction of the international and New Zealand music industry; music scenes, stars and authorship; audiences and fans; textual and genre analysis; and music as a form of cultural politics.
- Demonstrate understanding of critical terms, concepts, and approaches that they encounter across the course by applying those terms, concepts, and approaches to relevant examples and case studies.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 20 point course is 200 hours spread evenly over the 5.5 week trimester, or 36 hours per teaching week (attending lectures and tutorials, reading, preparing for tutorials, working on assignments, and reflecting on class material).

You should attend at least 75% of your tutorial sessions. Attendance will be taken at every tutorial session.

READINGS

Essential texts:

Roy Shuker (2008) *Understanding Popular Music Culture*, Routledge, London & New York.

This will be a starting point and background reading for the lectures, which will largely focus on clarifying central debates and providing illustrative case studies.

Recommended Reading:

These are held on CLOSED RESERVE, 3 DAY LOAN, or REFERENCE in the Library.

Some key articles can be accessed electronically. There also some very useful, relevant web sites, though at times these need to be treated with caution (as, indeed, do all sources). Available resources will be fully discussed at the first class, and in the first tutorial sessions.

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from Vicbooks on Level 4 of the Student Union Building.

You can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to you or they can be picked up from nominated collection points at each campus. You will be contacted when they are available.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Relationship to learning objectives:

All assessments require you to describe and explain the key features or elements of your chosen topic. You must also display your ability to identify issues, views and theories that relate to popular music culture by selecting relevant approaches to inform your discussion of your topic. Each assessment calls for you to demonstrate your understanding of critical terms, concepts and approaches from the course by applying them to examples and case studies.

Assignment One (35%)

1200-1500 word essay

Due: Week 3, Monday 28 November

Choose ONE from the following two topics:

1. The NZ music Industry.

“The contemporary NZ music industry remains marginalised and underdeveloped within both local and international markets”. With reference to illustrative examples, critically discuss this claim.

2. Popular music and the internet.

With reference to illustrative examples, critically discuss the impact of social networking sites (MySpace, etc) on the production, distribution and consumption of popular music.

Assignment Two (35%)

1200-1500 word essay

Due: Week 5, Monday 12 December

Choose ONE from the following three topics:

1. The music press.

“Women and their interests are marginalised by the popular music press”. With reference to female writers and female consumers, and with reference to specific examples from the music press, critically discuss this assertion.

2. Genre.

“Each popular music genre constitutes an undifferentiated monolithic whole”. With reference to ONE genre, critically discuss this assertion.

3. Music video.

Critically discuss up to THREE music videos from the selection listed on Blackboard (Under ‘Course Resources’). Apply any relevant concepts or approaches that have been covered across this course.

Assignment Three (30%)

Take home test: 1000 word essay

Due: Week 6, Tuesday 20 December

The take home test will be distributed in Week 5 (Monday 12 December)

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office. Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

Extensions will be granted only in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. Issues of workload do not constitute exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Tutors cannot grant extensions.

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To complete the course requirements, students must submit two essays, complete the take home test, and attend at least 75% of the tutorial sessions.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

STATEMENT ON LEGIBILITY

You are expected to present work that meets appropriate standards. Work submitted during the course (i.e. work that is internally assessed) should be typed or prepared on a computer. Where handwritten work is required you are expected to write clearly. If this is deemed 'illegible', you will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic,

intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

TURNITIN

Work provided for assessment in this course **may** be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted material on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions is not made available to any other party.

WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study.

Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress. Most statutes and policies are available at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic.

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
MEDIA STUDIES PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE MDIA 205

COURSE PROGRAMME

<i>Week</i>		<i>Date</i>	<i>Weekly topic</i>	<i>Reading (textbook)</i>	<i>Essays (due 5pm)</i>
Week 1	Lecture 1	14 Nov	Introduction	Introduction	
	Lecture 2	16 Nov	Technology	Chpt 2	
	<i>Tutorial 1</i>	17 Nov			
Week 2	Lecture 3	21 Nov	Music Industry & Policy	Chpts 1 & 12	
	Lecture 4	23 Nov	Auteurs and Stars	Chpts 3 & 4	
	<i>Tutorial 2</i>	24 Nov			
Week 3	Lecture 5	28 Nov	Popular Music as Text	Chpt 5	Essay 1 due
	Lecture 6	30 Nov	Genre	Chpt 6	
	<i>Tutorial 3</i>	1 Dec			
Week 4	Lecture 7	5 Dec	The Music Press	Chpt 9	
	Lecture 8	7 Dec	Film, TV & MTV	Chpt 8	
	<i>Tutorial 4</i>	8 Dec			
Week 5	Lecture 9	12 Dec	Politics and Popular music	Chpt 14	Essay 2 due
	Lecture 10	14 Dec	Subcultures & Moral Panics	Chpt 11 & 13	<i>Take-home test distributed</i>
	<i>Tutorial 5</i>	15 Dec			
Week 6		Tuesday 20 Dec			<i>Take-home test due</i>