Course: Post WWII Popular Music, 2700A
Meetings: Wednesdays 7-10pm, Talbot College 141
Fall 2016
Western University

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Course Description: This course is designed as an introduction to select genres of Western Popular Music Post-WWII and the issues that accompany them. Throughout the course we will approach each genre through the following lenses:
- Critical and elemental listening
- Identity
- Technology
- Industry & Business
- Margins & Mainstreams
- Traditions and Sources

Although we will not attempt to arrive at a strict definition of North American Popular Musics, our aim is to develop a clearer sense of the questions one has to address in order to make sense of them. In many ways, the success of this course will be measured by developing a greater number of nuanced questions and a smaller number of clear answers.

Assignments: Writing Prompts/ Listening Maps (submitted to OWL) ............................................20%

4 Total (at least one from each category)

Essay Proposal (2 pages plus working bibliography) .................................................................10%
November 2

Midterm Exam .........................................................................................................................20%
November 9

Essay (10-12 pages) ..................................................................................................................20%
November 30

Exam ........................................................................................................................................30%
TBD
Course Materials
There is no required text for this course. All of your reading and listening assignments are attached and will be available (directly or indirectly) through the OWL site. Many are also available through your standard student library access at Western. Accessing them this way may prove useful for future research papers/projects and your general skill-set. The instructor reserves the right to alter this list as the course progresses. Ample time will be given to adjust workloads.

OWL owl.uwo.ca/portal
A course area for 2700A has been set up. You must use OWL for this course as I will be uploading announcements, readings, listening excerpts and necessary course materials on an ongoing basis. It is also the forum for our listening reports and issue responses. Grades and other information are also available. If you have trouble with access, notify me within the first week of scheduled classes.

Assistance
If you need clarification about what I say in class or your assignments, you are encouraged to ask in class for the benefit of others, but otherwise please see me. My office hours are above as are those of the course’s teaching assistant. If it isn’t possible for you to see me during these hours, please make an appointment. I try to respond to all emails within 24 hours on weekdays, but be responsible for yourself and give yourself enough time to adjust if you don’t receive the response you want (or when you want it). Accommodations can be made for legitimate excuses, but these “legitimate excuses”, according to Western’s policies, will generally require documentation (see below).

Mental Health
If you are experiencing distress, please refer to Mental Health@Western for a list of options (www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth). Do not hesitate to make use of a complete list of services available to you.

Medical Accommodation
University policy states that if a student is unable to complete any work representing 10% or more of the course’s overall grade, s/he is asked to submit medical documentation, as soon as possible, to the Dean’s office along with a request for relief/accommodation. For detailed instructions, consult the University’s Policy for Accommodation for Medical Illness (www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/rights_responsibilities.html)
Without documentation, missed assignments, tests, exams will receive a grade of zero.

Assignments

- Assignments are due by the beginning of class (7pm) according to the assignment schedule. Electronic submissions are acceptable but MUST abide by the same schedule (electronically received by 7pm on the due date). A loss of 10% per day to a maximum of 10 days will be applied to ALL late assignments.

- During the test and final exam NO electronic devices may be used
Scholastic Offences
Please refer to www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/rights_responsibilities.html and follow the links to Scholastic Discipline and Code of Student Conduct in order to familiarize yourself with the definition of a scholastic offence. Scholastic Offences are taken very seriously and are as often the result of ignorance as they are a matter of intent. Be informed.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is deceptive, dishonest, disrespectful and detrimental and it will be taken very, very seriously in this course.
Western’s policy on plagiarism states that “all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism.”
**Do not use anything without referencing it**—conversations, online videos, websites, articles, books, other essays, audio. Consult a style manual or make use of the university’s writing centre if you are unsure about citation conventions.
Lecture Schedule

September 14...........................Themes, Concepts, Terms, Precursors
How to talk about music

September 21.........................Jazz

September 28.........................Country, Bluegrass & Folk

October 5.............................Blues

October 12............................British Invasion

October 19............................Rock

October 26............................Midterm Test

November 2...........................Pop
Essay Proposal Due

November 9...........................Dance Music

November 16..........................Hip Hop

November 23...........................Counterculture: Punk, Funk, Protest

November 30...........................“World” Influence
Essay Due

December 7............................Review
Assignment Descriptions

Writing Prompts

I will post weekly writing prompts to OWL pertaining to the genre discussed in that week’s class. A sample prompt might be formed as follows:

Using examples from our readings, listening examples and/or lectures, explain the role that sex and sexuality played in early rock lyrics and performance and contrast this with current pop music.

Students are asked to respond to the prompt in two well-written paragraphs. This is an exercise in quality over quantity so you are well-advised to avoid “fillers.” Use specific examples as much as possible and make every statement say something valuable.

Listening Maps

I will post (or direct you to) weekly tracks on OWL that relate to the corresponding week’s genre. A typical map will have 4-5 short-answer questions. They will look something like this:

1. Clock the following features with the elapsed time of the given track:
   - Bridge
   - Introduction of a given instrument
   - Vocal Harmony
   - Return of the “A” Section

2. The artist chosen has been claimed by both genre A and genre B. Name 2 features of this track in support of each position.

3. This is a “call and response” song. What are the lyrics corresponding to the call? Which for the response?

4. This piece of music samples from other artists. Name 2 of the original tracks and the corresponding artist.

To avoid intellectual property issues each week’s prompt/map will have an expiration date of exactly one week. After this time your work will be posted (names removed) in order to stimulate classroom conversation. You are encouraged to respectfully and freely respond to your classmates’ point of view throughout the semester. These responses will not be graded (but they’re good for you...good for all of us).

You must choose at least one from each of the two categories over the course of the semester for a total of four submissions. Keep the expiration date and your own workload in mind when considering when you would like to do these mini-assignments.