

# PMC 9702 - Listening to Popular Music - Fall 2017

## Topic: Listening to Identity

### Course Information:

Thursday, 1:30 - 4:20pm

TC 310

### Instructor

Dr. Norma Coates, Associate Professor

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TC 225 or FNB 4061

519-661-2111

Office Hours: Thursday, 12 - 1, FNB 4061 or by appointment

### Course Description:

The course surveys the cultural study of identities and popular music. Readings will present a range of methodological and theoretical approaches to the topic across several genres. Topics include but are not limited to race, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, nationality, and age, with an emphasis on intersectional approaches where applicable. Emphasis is placed on newer work, including that allied with the emerging field of Sound Studies.

### Course Objectives:

- Survey recent and foundational scholarship in the study of identity and popular music.
- Link popular music studies and analysis to other disciplinary approaches.
- Establish a critical vocabulary and knowledge base for the continued study of identity and popular music.
- Extrapolate methodological and theoretical approaches discussed in class to different identities and different musical genres.
- Develop and hone skills of interdisciplinary cultural analysis such as research, close reading, critical argumentation, and advanced academic writing and presentation skills.

### Course Materials

- Readings are listed on the course outline and a bibliography that will soon appear on OWL. Most readings will be posted on the course OWL site, and most are available through the Western Libraries Website. You will have to purchase or somehow obtain at least one and possibly two books in the 33 1/3 series.

### Assessment

Attendance and Participation: 20%

Weekly Reading Abstract: 20%

Seminar Leadership: 15%

Show and Tell: 5%

Seminar Paper: 40%

Attendance and Participation: This class is conducted as a seminar. Work focuses on independent reading and writing supported by class discussions. I will lecture on occasion to introduce new concepts or difficult material. Your questions and energy will drive the seminar. A successful seminar relies upon full attendance and participation, so it is a baseline expectation

that you will attend all class sections and be prepared to participate fully with energy and intelligence. You will be assessed accordingly. You are permitted one excused absence.

Participation includes preparing and coming to class with your weekly reading synthesis (below), plus notes and most importantly, questions about the readings. You are also encouraged to find clips or other visual material that illustrate concepts in the reading so that we may talk about them as a group.

Seminar Leadership: You will lead the seminar at least once during the semester. A short report about your seminar will be due one week later. Detailed information will be posted on OWL.

Weekly Reading Abstract: You will come to every class with an abstract of ONE of the assigned readings, and one discussion question about each assigned reading. Detailed information will be posted on OWL.

Show and Tell: Each week, a class member will present something encountered in real life (the Internet, Facebook, media etc. counts as real life) that relates to class material. (I ripped this off from Dr. Keightley, so when you have him next semester don't think that he copied me!)

Seminar Paper: A seminar paper of 15-20 doubled-spaced pages on a topic of your choosing is due on **Monday, December 18**. Your final paper grade includes handing in a paper topic and an abstract of your proposed paper for my review. Detailed information will be posted on OWL.

#### Statement on Academic Offences

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_grad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf)

"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. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)."

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## Schedule

**Note: Readings Subject to Change**

Week/Date	Topic	Readings
1 9/7	Course Overview and Introduction	James 2016 (click through to read the articles she critiques) Harris
2 9/14	Foundational - Race, Gender and Sexuality and Rock and Roll	Frith & McRobbie Coates Waksman, 1999 Wald, 1997
3 9/21	Revising Narratives of Race and Gender	Miller, Introduction, chapter 7 Hamilton, Introduction, chapter 8 6 McMullen
4 9/28	Straight Masculinities	McCracken, chapters 4 and 5 Williams Goldin-Perschbacher, 2007
5 10/5	Female Masculinity	Halberstam, c 1 Djupvic Kennedy
6 10/12	<b>NO CLASS - READING WEEK</b>	
7 10/19	Performing Whiteness	Waksman, 2017 Brooks Wald, 1998
8 10/26	"Other" Femininities <b>PAPER TOPICS DUE</b>	Mahon, 2011a, 2011b Smith Stevance
9 11/2	Pop and Pop Idols 1	Wald, 2002 James, 2017 Driscoll Brickman
10 11/9	Queering <b>PAPER ABSTRACTS DUE</b>	Hilderbrand Halberstam, 2003 Hawkins
11 11/16	Age	O'Brien Gardner Elliott, chapter TBD
12 11/23	Genre fluxing	Hubbs, Introduction, chapter 4 Edwards Valimaki

13 11/30	Challenging hegemonic practices	Lafrance, Burns, and Woods Leibetseder Jennex and Murphy
14 12/7	Final Paper Workshop	

**FINAL PAPER DUE MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2017**

## Bibliography

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