# MUSIC 1730B – INTRODUCTION TO POPULAR MUSIC AND CULTURE

**Winter 2020 - Tuesday, 1:30 – 3:30 and Thursday, 2:30 – 3:30, TC 201**

## PREREQUISITES

Music 1710 F/G  
It is your, the student’s, responsibility to ensure that you have taken an appropriate prerequisite course or that you have obtained special permission from the Dean to take this course.  
University Policy: “Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.”

## INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Norma Coates, Associate Professor  
225 Talbot College (TC) and 4061 FIMS and Nursing Building (FNB)  
ncoates@uwo.ca  
519-661-2111 x85365 (TC) and x80154 (NCB)  
Office Hours: Tuesday, 3:30 – 4:30pm, 225 Talbot College

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Popular music is not made in a vacuum. Popular music is more than words, notes, sound, and recordings. It is both a product and creator of culture. It affects and reacts to events outside of the music industry and the “music itself”. It influences how we live and who we think we are. Popular music’s resonance in and response to the greater culture in which it is located is never stable but is constantly changing. The cultural context affects how we listen to popular music, how we make popular music, the technology of popular music, who makes popular music, how we write about popular music, how we narrate the history of popular music, how we hear popular music, what we hear and why, who profits from popular music, and much more. This course is an introduction to thinking about popular music and culture as intimately related with each having a profound impact on the other.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

When this course is complete, students will be able to:  
- Define terms necessary to the study of popular music and culture.  
- Explain the impact of culture on popular music.  
- Explain the impact of popular music on culture.  
- Interpret the effect of institutions and industries upon popular music.  
- Identify the ways in which culture affects popular music.

## BOOKS AND READINGS

There is no required textbook.  
Required readings are posted by week on OWL. They consist of chapters from textbooks, academic articles, and links to newspapers, blogs, and other on-line information.
Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper/project</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
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Assignment Summaries

Attendance and Participation. I expect you to show up for class, prepared and ready to participate. I also expect you to show up on time for class. If you saunter in more than 10 minutes late, you will be marked absent.

Project/Paper. Write a 5 to 6 page paper on a topic that I will choose. You may also deliver this creatively, as a podcast, video, or some other form. The creative projects must have as much academic rigour as a paper. More information will be provided on OWL. Due: Thursday, March 19.

Midterm Examinations. The midterm exam may include short answer, fill-in-the-blank, essay, and multiple-choice questions. Date: Tuesday, February 11

Final Exam. The final exam is cumulative and will be administered during the final exam period. I do not set the date for the final exam. Do not make plans to go away until the date is set.

Statement on the Use of Electronic Devices

(This is my policy. Take it very, very seriously.)

You may use a laptop to take notes. You are to set your phone so that it does not ring or vibrate. I reserve the right to ban all computers for the rest of the semester if I catch students using them for purposes other than note-taking. I also reserve the right to collect all phones at the beginning of class for retrieval at the end. Please do not make me exercise either right. Truly, you can live without texting someone for two hours. People lived without texting for millennia and the species did not die out. Some professors ban the use of laptops in the classroom, and/or collect phones at the door. I will do that if necessary.

My Course Policies

Take these very seriously.

1. You must show up for class. It is not optional. Please see the description of Attendance and Participation above. Accommodations will be made for religious holidays, verifiable illness, and family emergencies.

2. Come on time. I give instructions and other non-pedagogical information at the start of class and I do not like to repeat it for stragglers.

3. Keep up with the reading and listening, if any. I encourage as much discussion as possible. Doing the reading will help you participate. I expect you to come to class having read and listened and with questions and/or observations about the readings. Most of the material in the required readings folder on OWL is from popular, not academic sources. They are easier to read and should spark questions and ideas. Please plan your preparation time accordingly.
4. I use OWL to post copies of the course outline, supplemental materials, supplemental readings, web links, announcements, and assignments. Be sure to check it regularly. Not seeing something that I posted on OWL is not an excuse for late work.

5. Turn your work in on time. There is one written/creative assignment in this course, due during week 11. You can begin work on it at any time. Do not leave it until the last minute. **Please seek my approval to turn it in late at least one week before the due date.** Otherwise, late papers will lose 3 points a day from the full grade that it would have received.

6. If you have questions about course requirements, check this course outline before emailing me.

7. In the case of self-reported absences, you must contact me within 24 hours following an absence to set up a time to discuss next steps for completing the work.

8. Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western, for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

9. Western has a Wellness Education Centre located in the UCC, room 76. Check it out! It provides many helpful resources and activities.

10. Read the University Policies at the end of the course outline.
## Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Read</th>
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| 1 1/7, 1/9 | Introduction | Frith, “The Popular Music Industry”  
Anderton, Dubber, & James, “The Recorded Music Industry;”  
“Songwriting and Publishing;”  
Week 2 folder |
| 2 1/14, 1/16 | Music Industry I | Anderton, Dubber, & James, “The Live Music Industry;”  
“Copyright and Music Piracy;”  
Week 3 folder |
| 3 1/21, 1/23 | Music Industry 2 | Anderton, Dubber, & James, “Music Promotion;”  
Marshall;  
Week 4 folder |
| 4 1/28, 1/30 | Music Industry 3 | Therberge, “Technology and Popular Music;”  
Prior, “Beyond Napster;”  
Week 5 Folder |
| 5 2/4, 2/6 | Technology | McLeod, “One and One-half Stars;”  
Week 9 Folder |
| 6 2/11, 2/13 | 2/11 – Midterm  
2/13 – No class | Keightley, “Reconsidering Rock;”  
Week 10 Folder |
| 7 2/15-2/23 | Reading Week – No Class | Nelson, “From Selling Out to Savvy Strategy;”  
Week 13 Folder |
| 8 2/25, 2/27 | Genre | Brackett, “Popular Music Genres;”  
Week 8 folder |
| 9 3/3, 3/5 | Gatekeeping – Critics and Curators | McLeod, “One and One-half Stars;”  
Week 9 Folder |
| 10 3/10, 3/12 | Ideology | Coates, “Teenyboppers, Groupies;”  
Stratton, “Popular Music, Race and Identity;”  
Week 11 Folder |
| 11 3/17, 3/19 | Identity  
3/19 Paper/Project due | Auslander, “Performing Star Identity in Popular Music;”  
Hu, “How Technology has Transformed etc.;”  
Week 12 Folder |
Week 13 Folder |
Week 13 Folder |

**Final Exam Date to be determined. I have no control over it.**
UNIVERSITY POLICIES. READ THEM.

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_undergrad.pdf.

Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

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).

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Academic Accommodation
Medical Accommodation
Students are responsible for making up any missed classes or assignments as soon as possible. In order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing more than 30% of the student’s overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation in the form of a completed and appropriately signed Student Medical Certificate (SMC) indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities, or the equivalent documentation for non-medical or compassionate grounds.

Students seeking academic consideration must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence. Documentation, if required, shall be submitted to the Office of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC210).

Compassionate Accommodation
Academic accommodation (extensions, makeup tests and exams, additional assignments etc.) may be given to students on compassionate grounds. The situations for which compassionate accommodation can be given must be serious, including significant events such as death in the immediate family, trauma (fire, robbery, harassment, muggings, car accidents, etc.) or emergency situations. Documentation is required. If a member of your immediate family is seriously ill, obtain a medical certificate from the family member’s physician and submit the documentation to your Academic Counselor. If you have been involved in a severe accident, fire or some other exceptional crises, obtain a copy of the police report or be prepared to provide the necessary documentation upon request.

Bereavement
Generally, for deaths within a student’s immediate family (parents, guardians, caregivers, siblings, spouses), bereavement leave is granted, upon provision of documentation. For deaths within a student’s extended family, academic accommodation is given for one to three days, upon provision of documentation.
Students seeking additional bereavement leave for religious or other reasons should contact their Academic Counselors, and provide valid documentation.

**Religious Accommodation**
Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counselor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance.
Further specific information is given in the Western Academic Calendar.

**Support Services at Western**
**Office of the Registrar:**
www.registrar.uwo.ca
**Student Development Centre:**
www.sdc.uwo.ca
**Mental Health @ Western:**
www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/students.html

**Psychological Services:**
www.sdc.uwo.ca/psych
**Services for Students with Disabilities:**
www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd
**Accessibility Information:**
www.accessibility.uwo.ca/
**Writing Support Centre:**
www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing
**Learning Skills Services:**
www.sdc.uwo.ca/learning
**Indigenous Services:**
indigenous.uwo.ca/
**International and Exchange Student Centre:**
www.sdc.uwo.ca/int
**Career Centre at Western:**
www.success.uwo.ca/careers/

**Statement on Mental Health**
Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western,
https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.