



DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS

COURSE OUTLINE – MU2640 WINTER 2011

Topics in Popular Music

INSTRUCTOR: Geoffrey Whittall **PHONE:** 780-539-2823
OFFICE: L213 **E-MAIL:** gwhittall@gprc.ab.ca
OFFICE HOURS: MTW 10:00-11:20, or by appointment
Website: <http://fad.gprc.ab.ca/~Geoff>

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: DD1021 or consent of the Instructor

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Shuker, Roy. *Understanding Popular Music Culture*, 3rd ed. New York: Routledge. 2008.

Various Authors and Dates. *MU 2640 Coursepack: A Collection of Selected Readings Dealing with the Culture(s) of Popular Music*

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This course provides the opportunity to study several aspects of popular music, and the society and culture that surround it. Topics may include politics and propaganda; issues of gender, sexuality and race; identity and counterculture; music lyrics, and video analysis.

CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS: 3(3-0-0) 45 Hours

DELIVERY MODE(S): Lecture and Discussion

OBJECTIVES: **Topics in Popular Music** provides the opportunity to study several aspects of popular music, and the society and culture that surrounds it. Using DD1021 as a jumping-off point, MU2640 will explore several possible topics; subject matter changes from year to year. Topics will be chosen from a number of subjects, relevant to both the academic and non-academic aspects of popular music study and experience. By the end of the semester, students will be conversant with many aspects of popular music industries and social

contexts, along a wide variety of academic points of view relating to popular music and popular culture.

TRANSFERABILITY: UA*, UC*, UL, AU, CUC, KUC, Aug(UA), GMU

** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.

GRADING STANDARD: See P. 42 of the 2010-2011 Calendar.

EVALUATION:

Class Contribution	10%
Article Abstracts and other assignments	25%
Mid-term examination (likely Feb 16 or 28)	15%
Research project: Term Paper	25%
Final examination	25%

You will demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of an aspect of the course through a research project involving a formal paper and a class presentation. Topics should be chosen before February 9 in consultation with the instructor, and the written paper will be due at the *beginning* of our second-last class on April 6. The paper must be a minimum of 2500 words (roughly 10 typed pages, depending on your font) in length, and must be typed. You must submit the term paper to be allowed to write the final exam.

Because much of the class will be organized as discussions, assigned readings must be done before the date for which they are due. Participation in class discussions will make up a significant part of all class sessions, and also comprise a portion of the final grade for this course.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES: More than 20% absenteeism may constitute a failure except for extenuating circumstances in which case a doctor's note may be required. You should be familiar with pages 41-50 of this year's Calendar.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING: Please refer to pages 48-49 of the College Calendar regarding plagiarism, cheating and the resultant penalties. These are serious issues and will be dealt with severely.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE: Late term papers will be assessed a penalty of 10% each day until the paper is submitted. If a term paper is not submitted, students will not be allowed to write the final exam, and a grade of zero will be recorded for both the paper and the exam; you must submit a paper to pass this course.