



DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS

COURSE OUTLINE – MU2640A3 WINTER 2012

TOPICS IN POPULAR MUSIC – MW 8:30-9:50AM, L214

INSTRUCTOR: Geoffrey Whittall **PHONE:** 780-539-2823
OFFICE: L119 **E-MAIL:** gwhittall@gprc.ab.ca
OFFICE HOURS: TR 1:00-2:20PM, or by appointment
WEBSITE: <http://people.gprc.ab.ca/gwhittall>

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.

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 (OPTIONAL): **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 CRITERIA:

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE			
GRADING CONVERSION CHART			
Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Designation
A ⁺	4.0	90 – 100	EXCELLENT
A	4.0	85 – 89	
A ⁻	3.7	80 – 84	FIRST CLASS STANDING
B ⁺	3.3	77 – 79	
B	3.0	73 – 76	GOOD
B ⁻	2.7	70 – 72	
C ⁺	2.3	67 – 69	SATISFACTORY
C	2.0	63 – 66	
C ⁻	1.7	60 – 62	
D ⁺	1.3	55 – 59	MINIMAL PASS
D	1.0	50 – 54	
F	0.0	0 – 49	FAIL
WF	0.0	0	FAIL, withdrawal after the deadline

EVALUATIONS:

Class Contribution and Discussion Leadership	15%
Article Abstracts and other assignments	25%
Mid-term examination (likely Feb 13, 15, or 27)	15%
Research project: Term Paper	20%
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 13 in consultation with the instructor, and the written paper will be due at the *beginning* of our second-last class on April 9. 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 medical or extenuating circumstances in which case a doctor's letter may be required. You should become familiar with pages 43-52 of the GPRC 2011-2012 Admissions Guide. The term paper is an essential part of this course; you must submit a paper to be able to write the final exam.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Admission Guide at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/**

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

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.