



DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS

COURSE OUTLINE – MU2640A3 WINTER 2013

TOPICS IN POPULAR MUSIC – TR 11:30AM-12:50PM, L214

INSTRUCTOR: Geoffrey Whittall **PHONE:** 780-539-2823
OFFICE: L119 **E-MAIL:** gwhittall@gprc.ab.ca
OFFICE HOURS: TR 10:00-11:20PM, or by appointment
WEBSITE: <http://people.gprc.ab.ca/gwhittall>

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

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

- 1) Schneider, Jason. 2009. *Whispering Pines: The Northern Roots of American Music... From Hank Snow to the Band*. Toronto: ECW Press.
- 2) Edwardson, Ryan. 2009. *Canuck Rock: A History of Canadian Popular Music*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- 3) Barclay, Michael, Ian Jack, and Jason Schneider. 2011. *Have Not Been the Same: The CanRock Renaissance 1985-1995, 10th anniversary edition*. Toronto: ECW Press.

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.

→ In 2013, our topic is Canadian Popular Music. We will explore its history, examine some of the more significant figures, and become familiar with the sounds of our country.

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

DELIVERY MODE(S): Lecture and Discussion

OBJECTIVES (OPTIONAL): Generally, you will become familiar with music styles, artists, and cultural contexts of significant Canadian popular musics. Using information about basic trends in North American Popular Music that you gained in DD1021, we will be exploring how Canadian popular music is similar and different from that of the U.S. We will see how our laws and geography/population create different situations for our artists and listeners. By the end of the course, you will be familiar with these aspects of our popular music, and understand how they impact our sense of identity.

TRANSFERABILITY: AU, Aug(UA), UA, UC (MUHL 309), UL (MUSI 3200)

** 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:

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	10%
Article Abstracts and other assignments	25%
Mid-term examination (likely Feb 12, 14, 26, 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 **14** in consultation with the instructor, and the written paper will be due by the *beginning* of our second-last class on April **11**. 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 course 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: You should intend to attend every class. You should become familiar with pages 41-50 of the GPRC 2012-2013 Calendar. The term paper is an essential part of this course; you must submit a paper to be able to write the final exam. There are no opportunities for make-up work, so plan to submit your work before it is due. Extensions may be granted for medical, religious, or compassionate grounds; they will only be granted *before* the due date.

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 not be accepted, because they are tied to class presentations, and to be fair to all students, everyone must submit their paper before the presentations begin.

The final exam will take place in the examination period following classes.