

COURSE OUTLINE		
TERM: FALL 2025	COURSE NO: CMNS 224	
INSTRUCTOR:	COURSE TITLE: Music and Media	
OFFICE: LOCAL: E-MAIL:	SECTION NO(S):	CREDITS: 3.0
OFFICE HOURS:		
COURSE WEBSITE:		

Capilano University acknowledges with respect the Lilwat7úl (Lil'wat), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), shíshálh (Sechelt), Sḵwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) people on whose territories our campuses are located.

COURSE FORMAT

Three hours of class time, plus an additional hour delivered through online or other activities for a 15-week semester, which includes two weeks for final exams.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

9 credits of 100-level or higher coursework including CMNS 100 or ENGL 100

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on music as a medium of expression, industrial organisation, technological development, creative practice and social communication. Areas of exploration will include the innovation and impact of sound recording and acoustic media, the emergence and mutations of the music industry and its role in shaping the processes of musical production and consumption, the political aspects of music subcultures and musical aesthetics, and the political dimensions of music as a mode of communication.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND/OR RESOURCES

All course readings will be available as links on the course eLearn.

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- Identify and apply critical analytic concepts and theoretical frameworks to produce insights into music as a form of social communication;
- Contextualise and apply critical analysis to contemporary developments in music relative to the history of musical cultures and the music industry;
- Understand and analyse the political-economy of the music industry relative to developments in music and music media;

- Identify, address and analyse key themes, issues, and challenges emerging from historical and contemporary developments in music, music media and the music industry;
- Identify, address and analyse significant features of the transition to digital media in relation to emergent potentials and trends in music, music media and the music industry.

COURSE CONTENT

Date	Topic	Assignments
Week 1	<i>Popular music as social communication: intro to course themes, approaches & process</i>	
Week 2	<i>The meanings of music and the idea of “musical culture”</i> Read Trehub, et al., “Cross-cultural perspectives on music and musicality”	
Week 3	<i>The critical study of popular music: themes and approaches</i> Read Church, “Resistance, race and myth: A critical survey of American popular music culture in the 20 th century”	
Week 4	<i>The social construction of acoustic media</i> Read Enns, “The human telephone: Physiology, neurology and sound technologies”	
Week 5	<i>The invention of modern musical attitudes</i> Read Cressman, “The concert hall as a medium of musical culture” & “Listening, attentive listening and musical meaning”	
Week 6	<i>Catch-up & student presentations</i>	
Week 7	<i>The recording industry: music as property</i> Read Kernfeld, “Introduction” from <i>Pop Song Piracy</i>	
Week 8	<i>The recording industry: the musician as labour</i> Read Kjus, “Twists and turns in the 360 deal: Spinning the risks and rewards of artist-label relations in the streaming era.”	
Week 9	<i>Music as ideology: genre, aesthetics & social politics</i> Read Adorno, “On popular music” (sections 1 & 2 only)	
Week 10	<i>Music as ideology: from moral panics to progressive movements</i> Read Deflem, “Popular music and social control: The moral panic on music labelling”	
Week 11	<i>Digital media as new musical culture: a format-based overview</i> Read Stern, “mp3 as cultural artefact”	
Week 12	<i>Digital networks & the challenge to “copyright capitalism”</i> Read Leyshon, “Scary monsters? Software formats, peer-to-peer networks & the spectre of the gift”	

Week 13	<i>What's new is old again: from sharing to streaming</i> <i>Read</i> Leyshon, "On the reproduction of the musical economy after the internet"	
Session 14	<i>Course wrap-up & student presentations</i>	

EVALUATION PROFILE

Assessment	% of Final Grade
Assignment 1 - In class writing assignments (4 @ 5% each)	20%
Assignment 2 – Music journals (4 @ 5% each)	20%
Assignment 3 – Seminar presentation & research paper 1	25%
Assignment 4 – Seminar presentation & research paper 2	25%
Participation & professionalism	10%
Total	100%

Written assignments (assignments 3 & 4) will be submitted on eLearn via the submission pages provided for each assignment under the "assignment submissions" topic heading. Assignments are returned to students via these same links – eLearn generates automatic notices of assignment returns which are delivered via students' Capilano email accounts. ***Please make sure to check your CapU email to receive notification of assignment returns – these emails may go to your junk mail folder.***

Presentations (assignments 3 & 4) will be conducted during class sessions as specified on the "class schedule" (posted on eLearn) and in the "course content" section above.

COURSE ASSESSMENTS

Full descriptions of all assignments can be found on the course eLearn.

In-class quizzes & writing assignments (4 @ 5% each = 20%) – students will complete a series of 4 free-writing assignments in class intermittently throughout the semester.

Music Journal (4 @ 5% = 20%) – students will write short (250-300 word) journal entries connecting a key concept from selected course readings to their own personal experience of popular music. These will be hosted as eLearn discussion forums. Students can select from a range of prompts in completion of this assignment.

Research assignment 1 (25%) – students will prepare a research-based assignment either exploring a specific topic in-depth or providing a review of a course theme. Assignments can be of different types (essay + short in-class presentation; in-class poster presentation + written outline; narrated slide-show + written summary) but must address a topic drawn from the first half of the course (sessions 1-5). Please see the full assignment description on eLearn for details.

Research assignment 2 (25%) – students will prepare a research-based assignment either exploring a specific topic in-depth or providing a review of a course theme. Assignments can be of different types (essay + short in-class presentation; in-class poster presentation + written outline; narrated slide-show + written summary) but must address a topic drawn from the second half of the course (sessions 7-13). Please see the full assignment description on eLearn for details.

Participation and Professionalism grades are based on the consistency, quality, and frequency of contributions to class discussions. Consistency means attending every class, maintaining a positive and respectful presence in the classroom, and actively contributing to discussions on a regular basis. Quality means demonstrating respect for peers and their contributions, listening attentively during lectures and when other students are speaking, and participating in all activities with an open and inquisitive mind.

GRADING PROFILE

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D = 50-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	F = 0-49
A- = 80-84	B- = 70-72	C- = 60-62	

Incomplete Grades

Grades of Incomplete “I” are assigned only in exceptional circumstances when a student requests extra time to complete their coursework. Such agreements are made only at the request of the student, who is responsible to determine from the instructor the outstanding requirements of the course.

Late Assignments

Assignments are due at the times and on the dates listed on assignment descriptions and in other documentation. If you anticipate handing in an assignment late, please consult with your instructor **at least 24 hours before the due date**. Extensions will not be granted if they are requested later than 24 hours prior to the due date. Late assignments will receive a 1-point grade deduction for each 24 hour period they are late and will not receive written feedback. Assignments submitted more than 3 days late will not be accepted without prior arrangements with the course instructor.

Missed Exams/Quizzes/Labs etc.

Make-up exams, quizzes and/or tests are given at the discretion of the instructor. They are generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crises. Some missed activities (live small group discussion, e.g.) may not be able to be accommodated.

*** Accommodations can be made to honour community needs and traditional practices.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes and associated activities. However, if you are ill or caring for someone who is ill and/or need to self-isolate, please contact the instructor so that they can ensure that you are able to complete the course.

English Usage

Students are expected to proofread all written work for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors. Marks will be deducted for incorrect grammar and spelling in written assignments where such are pervasive.

Electronic Devices

Students may use electronic devices during class for note taking only.

On-line Communication

Outside of the classroom, instructors will (if necessary) communicate with students using either their official Capilano University email or eLearn; please check both regularly – at least once per day. Official communication between Capilano University and students is delivered to students' Capilano University email addresses only.

UNIVERSITY OPERATIONAL DETAILS**Tools for Success**

Many services are available to support student success for Capilano University students. A central navigation point for all services can be found at: <https://www.capilanou.ca/student-services/>

Capilano University Security: download the [CapU Mobile Safety App](#)

Policy Statement (S2009-06)

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Academic Integrity, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

Academic Integrity (S2017-05)

Any instance of academic dishonesty or breach of the standards of academic integrity is serious and students will be held accountable for their actions, whether acting alone or in a group. See policy and procedures S2017-05 Academic Integrity for more information:

<https://www.capilanou.ca/about-capu/governance/policies/>

Violations of academic integrity, including dishonesty in assignments, examinations, or other academic performances, are prohibited and will be handled in accordance with the Student Academic Integrity Procedures.

Academic dishonesty is any act that breaches one or more of the principles of academic integrity. Acts of academic dishonesty may include but are not limited to the following types:

Cheating: Using or providing unauthorized aids, assistance or materials while preparing or completing assessments, or when completing practical work (in clinical, practicum, or lab settings), including but not limited to the following:

- Copying or attempting to copy the work of another during an assessment;
- Communicating work to another student during an examination;

- Using unauthorized aids, notes, or electronic devices or means during an examination;
- Unauthorized possession of an assessment or answer key; and/or,
- Submitting of a substantially similar assessment by two or more students, except in the case where such submission is specifically authorized by the instructor.

Fraud: Creation or use of falsified documents.

Misuse or misrepresentation of sources: Presenting source material in such a way as to distort its original purpose or implication(s); misattributing words, ideas, etc. to someone other than the original source; misrepresenting or manipulating research findings or data; and/or suppressing aspects of findings or data in order to present conclusions in a light other than the research, taken as a whole, would support.

Plagiarism: Presenting or submitting, as one's own work, the research, words, ideas, artistic imagery, arguments, calculations, illustrations, or diagrams of another person or persons without explicit or accurate citation or credit.

Self-Plagiarism: Submitting one's own work for credit in more than one course without the permission of the instructors, or re-submitting work, in whole or in part, for which credit has already been granted without permission of the instructors.

Prohibited Conduct: The following are examples of other conduct specifically prohibited:

- Taking unauthorized possession of the work of another student (for example, intercepting and removing such work from a photocopier or printer, or collecting the graded work of another student from a stack of papers);
- Falsifying one's own and/or other students' attendance in a course;
- Impersonating or allowing the impersonation of an individual;
- Modifying a graded assessment then submitting it for re-grading; or,
- Assisting or attempting to assist another person to commit any breach of academic integrity.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

All Members of the University Community have the right to work, teach and study in an environment that is free from all forms of sexual violence and misconduct. Policy B401 defines sexual assault as follows:

Sexual assault is any form of sexual contact that occurs without ongoing and freely given consent, including the threat of sexual contact without consent. Sexual assault can be committed by a stranger, someone known to the survivor or an intimate partner.

Safety and security at the University are a priority and any form of sexual violence and misconduct will not be tolerated or condoned. The University expects all Students and Members of the University Community to abide by all laws and University policies, including B.401 Sexual Violence

and Misconduct Policy and B.401.1 Sexual Violence and Misconduct Procedure (found on Policy page <https://www.capilanou.ca/about-capu/governance/policies/>)

Emergencies: Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the emergency policies where appropriate and the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.