

COURSE OUTLINE
Anthropology 2276B-650
The Anthropology of Music
Summer 2022 · Distance Studies



This course runs for 6 weeks from June 20 – July 29, 2022.

Instructor: Dr. Karyn Olsen

Pronouns: she/her

Office: Online

Office hours: Online, by appointment

Email: kolsen5@uwo.ca

Credit value: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite(s): None.

Antirequisite(s): None.

Mode of Delivery

This course is conducted online. It is asynchronous, meaning that there are no live lectures in Zoom. Students will be provided with a variety of lesson materials (e.g., recorded lectures, readings and study guides, video clips, etc.) and activities that can be done throughout the week, although there may be tasks that must be completed by specific times. There are no in-person exams.

Course Description

In this course, we will take an anthropological approach to exploring music as an aspect of culture in the present and the past and focus on how music is used to negotiate individual and collective identities in multiple world contexts. Methods and issues relating to the ethnographic study of music behaviours are a key focus area for this course. We will also explore material from cultural studies of music, archaeology, and biological anthropology to help inform a broad understanding of music culture.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Synthesize ideas and concepts about music culture from across fields of study in anthropology.
- Identify and discuss the relationship between music and social identity in a variety of cultural contexts using examples from course readings and lectures, independent research, and personal experience.
- Describe the methods used to collect data in modern ethnographic contexts and apply an understanding of those methods to your own reflections and analyses.

Course Materials

Ethnography

Condry, I. (2006). *Hip-Hop Japan: Rap and the Paths of Cultural Globalization*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Note: You will be able to purchase Condry's ethnography at Western's Bookstore or find it online in paper or electronic formats. A copy will also be put on 2-hour reserve at the Music Library.

Selected Journal Articles & Book Chapters

This course will also rely on 1-2 selected journal articles or book chapters as part of assigned readings each week. These readings will be linked in OWL for you to access easily. The complete reading list and schedule will be available in OWL by the first day of class.

Evaluation

Interview Assignment – 25% Due Date: Monday, July 4th

For this assignment, you will interview someone you know from a different generation than yourself about the role of music in their life (e.g., your parent, grandparent, co-worker, child, etc.) As a class, we will consider the challenges and insights associated with ethnographic interviewing. We will also brainstorm possible interview questions that you will use as part of your assignment. You will submit a summary of the questions/answers you received and a synthesis of what you learned by taking part in the process.

Note: Unless you receive accommodation for illness through Academic Counselling, late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 5%/day late for up to a total of 5 days (including weekends) following the due date. Late assignments will not be accepted after 5 days.

Take Home Midterm – 25% Due Date: Monday, July 11th

The midterm exam will consist of short answer questions that integrate concepts and ideas from the first three weeks of the course (assigned readings and videos). Midterm questions will be posted in OWL on Thursday, July 7th. Please set aside 3-6 hours of your time to complete the midterm by the deadline and upload the completed midterm in OWL. You may access course materials as you write, and you are

expected to prepare your response independently. Submissions will be reviewed by Turn-it-in software to ensure the originality of each response.

Note: If you do not submit the Take Home Midterm by the due date set in the course schedule, you will not be allowed to write the missed examination. You may petition for permission to write a Special Examination by submitting written documentation in support of your request to the Academic Counselling Office where it will be determined if accommodation is warranted.

Autoethnography Assignment - 25% Due Date: Friday, July 29th

For this assignment, you will combine self-reflection and research to analyze an experience in your life that involves music. The goal is to share insight into a music-related cultural activity or identity through your own observations, self-analysis, and academic research. This assignment allows you to pursue an area of personal interest related to music and culture/identity. That said, the assignment is not just an opinion paper. You will look into academic sources on your chosen focus and make connections to course content that demonstrates an academic understanding of the topic.

This assignment is made up of two components: 1) Sharing observations of an experience in your life that involves music (written or video reflection), and 2) Analysis of the experience with connections to course content and found research (written analysis).

Note: Unless you receive accommodation for illness through Academic Counselling, late assignments are penalized at the rate of 5%/day late for up to a total of 5 days (including weekends) following the due date. Late assignments will not be accepted after 5 days.

Take Home Final Exam – 25% Due Date: TBA (during the scheduled Exam Period)

The final exam will consist of short answer questions that integrate concepts and ideas from the final three weeks of the course (assigned readings and videos). The final exam questions will be posted in OWL 4 days prior to the deadline. Please set aside 3-6 hours of your time to complete the exam by the deadline and upload the completed exam in OWL. You may access course materials as you write, and you are expected to prepare your response independently. Submissions will be reviewed by Turn-it-in software to ensure the originality of each response.

Note: If you do not submit the Take Home Final Exam at the time set in the timetable, you will not be allowed to write the missed examination. You may petition for permission to write a Special Examination by submitting written documentation in support of your request to the Academic Counselling Office where it will be determined if accommodation is warranted.

Course & Instructor Policies

Course Rationale and Instructor/Student Responsibilities

To help you develop an anthropological appreciation of social identity, my goal is to provide you with opportunities to relate course material to your personal experiences and existing knowledge. This way you will be more likely to remember the concepts and apply them in new contexts. It is also very important to me that time is set aside for you to interact with course material (e.g., through study guide

questions and polling activities) I believe this will result in a deeper, longer-lasting understanding of the material.

My responsibilities as the professor are to 1) provide an organized, user friendly online learning environment, 2) strive for a positive, supportive, and engaging course, and 3) be open to student contributions, questions, and feedback.

Your responsibilities as a student are to 1) stay on top of weekly tasks by reading and reflecting on the assigned readings, 2) participate respectfully in course activities, 3) plan and manage your time to meet course due dates, and 4) ask questions as needed to ensure that you stay on track.

Diversity and Inclusion Statement

I would like to create a learning environment that supports diverse thoughts, perspectives, and experiences. We all bring unique identities to the classroom that reflect differences in age, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, ability, religion, and class. I will gladly honour any request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. I will attempt to foster an environment in which students are able to express ideas and hear and respect one another. Please let me know if there are ways that you think I could improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students/student groups.

Statement on Engaging in the Online Learning Environment

This course relies on the OWL site to connect you with the syllabus, assignment outlines, content, and other course material. Here, you will engage with me and your peers as we progress through the course. Please keep track of weekly tasks and contribute respectfully to online activities.

Statement on Email

You may contact me by email, but it may take up to 48 hours for a response. If I cannot provide an immediate response, or if the matter is something that I cannot address easily in an email, we will plan to meet virtually. Please ensure that your emails are worded professionally and include the course number in the subject line.

Statement on Student Success

If you need support with your academic writing skills, please visit the [Writing Support Centre](#) in person or online. The Centre aims to (1) enhance your writing and communication skills and build your confidence, (2) equip you with tools, resources, and knowledge to effectively communicate through writing, (3) increase your critical analysis abilities to effectively communicate scholarly ideas, (4) convey university level writing expectations, and (5) provide you with the skills you need to navigate academic transitions.

[Learning Development and Success](#) supports your development as student by answering questions and providing advice on how to succeed in your studies at Western. They can help you to develop and strengthen academic skills.

[Health and Wellness](#) will help you navigate any kind of mental health issue (e.g., anxiety, stress, etc.) WEC provides free assistance in connecting you with wellness services and resources on and off campus.

Statement on Seeking Special Accommodations

To ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities. Please see your academic counsellor in a timely manner if you will be seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds.

Statement on Plagiarism

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. It is also a scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

Statement on Turn-it-in

All required written assignments/exams 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](https://www.turnitin.com).

Institutional Statements and Policies

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and medical accommodation. These policies are outlined in Western's academic policies by clicking on this link: [Western's academic policies](#).

Weekly Schedule

DATE	FOCUS/TOPIC	READINGS	KEY DATES
Week 1 Jun 20-26	Ethnography	Condry, Introduction Assigned article(s) in OWL	
Week 2 Jun 27-Jul 3	Race	Condry, Chapters 1 & 2 Assigned article(s) in OWL	Interview Assignment (due July 4)
Week 3 Jul 4-10	Soundscapes	Condry, Chapter 3 Assigned article(s) in OWL	Take Home Midterm Exam (due July 11)

DATE	FOCUS/TOPIC	READINGS	KEY DATES
Week 4 Jul 11-17	Globalization	Condry, Chapters 4 & 5 Assigned article(s) in OWL	
Week 5 Jul 18-24	Gender	Condry, Chapters 6 & 7 Assigned article(s) in OWL	
Week 6 Jul 25-29	Community	Condry, Conclusion Film: Global Metal	Autoethnography Assignment (due Jul 29)
Exam Period Aug 2-5			Take Home Final Exam (due TBA)