

ETHN 108 / MUS 151

Race, Culture, and Social Change

Tues/Thurs, 9:30am-10:50am, Warren Lecture Hall 2154

Instructor

Dr. Sarah Hankins

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Readers

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class interrogates social categories of race, gender, and sexuality through interdisciplinary approaches in music and media studies, ethnic studies and critical theory. We explore how these categories are framed, contested, and circulated through music and popular media both historically and in 21st century contexts of late-liberalism and globalization.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Integrity of scholarship is essential for an academic community. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor this principle and in so doing protect the validity of University intellectual work. For students, this means that all academic work will be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind. Instructors, for their part, will exercise care in planning and supervising academic work, so that honest effort will be upheld. Please thoroughly review UCSD's Academic Integrity Policy for detailed information regarding what is expected of you as students in this class, and within the University at large:

<http://senate.ucsd.edu/Operating-Procedures/Senate-Manual/Appendices/2>

OSD STUDENT ACCOMMODATIONS

Students registered with the Office for Students with Disabilities are to provide copies of their AFA (Authorization for Accommodation) letters to both the course instructor and the administrative office of the Music Department. If you have any questions about utilizing your OSD accommodation, please speak to the instructor, and/or contact the Office of Students with Disabilities directly at osd@ucsd.edu or 858-534-4382.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/GRADING

Attendance and Participation (20%): You are expected to come to class regularly, and be prepared to participate consistently in class activities and discussions. Attendance will be taken. Students are permitted to miss **up to two** class sessions; *more than two unexcused absences will result in a grade of 0%* for the attendance and participation component of this course.

Weekly Readings and Deeper-Dive Responses (15%): Most weeks, you will read 1-2 required texts, and be prepared to discuss them in class. Twice during the quarter, you will write a response of 500-750 words to one of our topical modules (your choice), utilizing a text to analyze one or more of the media examples for the topic of your choice. Your response should explicitly address the following: (A) What is the author's central argument (thesis); (B) How does the author support this argument in the body of the text (identify at least two pieces of evidence); (C) How does the text illuminate aspects of the media example(s) you chose? Responses will be due via Canvas on Friday of Week 5 and Friday of Week 9.

Take-Home Midterm (25%): You will write 4-5 short essays dealing with the course content to date. The midterm will be distributed on Thursday of Week 5 and due via Canvas by 11:59pm on Friday of Week 6.

Critical Playlist / Social Media Assignment (15%): A playlist of 12-15 songs/music videos, OR curation/creation of substantial social media content exploring themes and concepts from this course, plus a short written discussion of 500 words. Due via Canvas by 11:59pm on Tuesday of Week 10.

Final Paper, Syllabus, or Creative Project (25%): Depending on your professional and personal interests, you may choose one of the following options. Due via Canvas by 11:59pm on Thursday of Finals Week (there is no separate final exam in this class).

- A research paper of 8-10 pages (plus works cited and any notes or appendices) that makes an original intervention on course topics/themes.
- A course syllabus plus annotated bibliography that develops course topics/themes. Together, these materials should amount to 8-10 pages.
- A creative project that engages course topics/themes, paired with an essay or "program note" of several pages that frames details of this engagement, with reference to specific texts, authors, or theories.

COURSE SCHEDULE

(subject to change)

Week 1 (April 2-4): Popular Media and Commodity Culture

Read: Timothy Taylor, "Neoliberal Capitalism and the Cultural Industries".

**Due by Friday: Submit media suggestions (songs, music videos, social media content etc.) for one or more of our syllabus modules that you find of interest. [Post links or bibliographic info HERE*](#)*

Week 2 (April 9-11): Blackness, Media and Politics

Read: [Mark Puryear, "Tell It Like It Is: A History of Rhythm and Blues"](#); Calvin Walds, "A Call to Noise".

RECOMMENDED: David Mariott, "On Decadence: Bling Bling".

Media: SEE UNDER --> [MODULES/WEEK 2](#)

Week 3 (April 16-18): Feminism(s)

Read: Baily and Trudy, "On Misogynoir"; bell hooks, "Moving Beyond Pain."

Media: SEE UNDER --> [MODULES/WEEK 3](#)

Week 4 (April 23-25): Queer Aesthetics

Read: Drew Daniel, "All Sound is Queer" (2011); Lee Edleman, "The Future is Kid Stuff" (1998).

Media: SEE UNDER --> [MODULES/WEEK 4](#)

Week 5 (April 30-May 2): Media Critique Workshop

Due by Friday: Deeper Dive Response #1

Week 6 (May 7-9): Race, Politics and Cultural Aesthetics at UCSD

Read: Stefano Harney and Fred Moten, "The University and the Undercommons".

Media: SEE UNDER --> [MODULES/WEEK 6](#)

****Take-Home Midterm due via Canvas by 11:59pm Friday, May 10****

Week 7 (May 14-16): Asian Representation and Globalized Popular Media

Read: (REQUIRED) Sugihara and Ju, "Media Matters: Why Asian American Representation in Media is a Social Justice Issue"; Hua Hsu, "How 88Rising is Making a Place for Asians in Hip Hop"; (RECOMMENDED) Helen Zia, "From Nothing to Consciousness".

Media: SEE UNDER --> [MODULES/WEEK 7](#)

Week 8 (May 21-23): Latinx Music, Media and Identity Politics

Read: Kim Kattari, "Building Pan-Latino Unity in the United States through Music: An Exploration of Commonalities Between Salsa and Reggaeton." AND Ed Morales, "Introduction-Latinx: the New Force in American Politics and Culture."

Media: SEE UNDER --> [MODULES /WEEK 8](#)

Week 9 (May 28-30): Social Media

****Due by Friday: Deeper Dive Response #2****

Week 10 (June 4-6): TBD

****Due by Friday: *Critical Playlist / Social Media assignment****

FINALS WEEK (June 11-13): *Final paper, project, or syllabus due by Thursday, June 13 at 11:59pm*