Fall 9-1-2005

MUS 424.01: Music of the 20th Century - Music, Sex, and Gener

James Randall
University of Montana - Missoula, james.randall@umontana.edu

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Music 424  
Music, Sex, and Gender  
Fall 2005  
MW 4:10-5:30, Davidson Honors College 120  

Instructor: Dr. James Randall  
Office/phone: 209 Music Bldg. ext. 6892  
E-mail: james.randall@umontana.edu  
Hours: TW 9:30-10:30, or by appt.  

Required Readings:  
There is no required textbook for this course. Weekly readings will be placed on e-reserve or Blackboard. The e-reserve password for the course is “mus424”.  

Description:  
Music is much more than just the sum of its sounds. As an aspect of culture, it has often been an active force in both shaping and critiquing societal norms of what constitutes gender identity. Why is some music considered ‘masculine’ and other music considered ‘feminine’? What do these words mean, and how has the construction of gender identity as it relates to music changed over time? A variety of historical and cross-cultural topics from popular, classical, and world music will be explored in attempts to examine these questions.  

Evaluation:  
Grades will be based on your performance on the following exams and assignments:  

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Essay I</td>
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<td>Essay II</td>
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<td>Essay III (Final)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework/Attendance</td>
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_Paper extensions will only be permitted with a valid excuse—family illness, medical emergency, etc._

Grading scale is as follows:  

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<tr>
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<td>F</td>
<td>59% and below</td>
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MUSIC 424—SYLLABUS (Fall 2005)
SCHEDULE/ASSIGNMENTS

The assigned readings should be completed by the first class meeting of each week unless specified otherwise.

Week 1 8/29, 31

TOPICS: Course expectations; syllabus
What is gender? What is sex?
READING: Colebrook, “Nature/culture: Sex/gender”
“Gender” in Grove’s Dictionary of Music

Week 2 9/7

No class on Labor Day, 9/5

TOPICS: How is gender communicated through music?
READING: Holtzman, “Gender in Pink and Blue”

Week 3 9/12, 14

TOPICS: So why don’t more guys play the flute? And where are all the great female guitarists?
Agnew, Interview with drummer for ’7-year Bitch’

Week 4 9/19, 21

TOPICS: Musical Masculinities: ‘Cock Rock’ and Beyond
READING: Reynolds and Press, “I am the King...” Fast, “Whole Lotta Love: Performing Gender.”

Week 5 9/26, 28
TOPICS: Grrrl Power: Making space for Women in Rock

READING: “There’s a Riot Going On: Grrrls Against Boy-Rock”
Reynolds and Press. “Who’s that girl?: Masquerade and Mastery.”
Leonard, “‘Rebel Girl, You are the Queen of my World’ Feminism, ‘Subculture’ and Grrrl Power.”
Straw, “Sizing up Record Collections”

Week 6 10/3, 5

TOPICS: African-American Women: Power, Gender, and Music

READING: Bowers, “I Can Stand More Trouble Than Any Little Woman My Size’…
Perry, “It’s my Thang and I’ll Swing it the Way that I Feel: Sexuality and Black Women Rappers.”
Carby, “It jus be’s dat way sometime: The sexual politics of women’s blues”

Week 7 10/10, 12

TOPICS: Drag and Androgyny

READING: Bruzzi, “Mannish Girl: K.D. Lang…”
Interview with “Phranc,” in Angry women of Rock and Roll

Week 8 10/17, 18

TOPICS: Lost Histories/Prejudiced Histories

READING: Brown, “Tchaikovsky and his Music…”
Tick, “Charles Ives and Gender Ideology”
Thomas, “Was George Frideric Handel Gay?”

Week 9 10/24, 26

TOPICS: Gendering Jazz

READING: Gill, “Mannish-Acting Women, Woman-Acting Men.”
Gill, “And His Mother Called Him Bill.”
Gill, “Miles in the Sky.”
Gill, “Walk Like a Woman, Talk Like a Man.”
Week 10

10/31, 11/2

TOPICS: Lost in Translation: A cross-cultural look at Music and Gender

READING: TBA

Week 11

11/7, 9

TOPICS: Gender and Country Music

READING: TBA

Week 12

11/14, 16

TOPICS: Masculinity and Hip-Hop

READING: TBA

Week 13

11/21

TOPICS: A Man’s World: Women Professionals and Classical Music

READING: TBA

11/23 Thanksgiving: No Class

Week 14

11/28, 30

Wrap-up/Final Presentations

Week 15

12/5, 7

Final Presentations