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MUSI 417.01: Cultural Studies in Music

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Music 417: Cultural Studies in Music
Music, Sex, and Gender
Upper-Division Writing Course
Spring 2016
TR 5:40-7:00, Music 205

Instructor: Dr. James Randall
Office/phone: 214 Music Bldg.

E-mail: james.randall@umontana.edu
Hours: W 10:30-12, or by appt.

Required Readings:

All course readings will be placed on Moodle.

Description:

Music of the past and present has played an active role in shaping and sometimes questioning societal norms related to gender and sexuality. Through historical and cross-cultural comparisons of popular, classical, and traditional music, we'll learn how music can communicate cultural values related to feminine, masculine, queer, and trans identities. Writing assignments will encourage students to apply and challenge current research in the area of music, sex, and gender and offer the opportunity for original research.

Student Goals and Objectives:

- 1) An introduction to current research on music, sex, and gender
- 2) Actively applying and challenging theories from this research in your essays
- 2) Understanding how music can communicate abstract concepts such as gender and sexuality
- 3) Improved Critical Thinking Skills: the ability to evaluate and formulate one's own ideas and arguments within verbal and written contexts.
- 4) Improved Writing Skills: organization, grammar, logical presentation of ideas and evidence.

Evaluation:

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

Essay I	20%	
Essay II	20%	
Essay III (Final)	20%	
Final Essay Presentation		20%
Discussion Postings/Participation/Attendance	20%	

Paper extensions will only be permitted with a valid excuse—family illness, medical emergency, etc.

Grading scale is as follows

A	93-100%	C	73-77%
A-	90-92%	C-	70-72%
B+	88-89%	D+	68-69%
B	83-87%	D	63-67%
B-	80-82%	D-	60-62%
C+	78-79%	F	59% and below

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at www.umt.edu/SA/VP/SA/Index.cfm/page/1321.

MUSIC 417—SYLLABUS (Spring 2016) **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE/ASSIGNMENTS**

The assigned readings should be completed by the first class meeting of each week unless specified otherwise. For most class meetings, you'll be required to participate in an online discussion forum over the readings before class (see Moodle).

<i>Week 1</i>	1/26-28
TOPICS:	Course expectations; syllabus What is gender? What is sex?
READING:	"Gender" in <i>Grove's Dictionary of Music</i> Slideshow: Biology, Sex, and Gender
<i>Week 2</i>	2/2- 2/04
TOPICS:	How can gender or sexuality be communicated through music?
READING:	Holtzman, "Gender in Pink and Blue" Turino, "Why Music Matters"
<i>Week 3</i>	2/9-2/11
TOPICS:	Why don't more guys play the flute? Where are all the great female guitarists?
READING:	Steblin, "The Gender Stereotyping of Musical Instruments ..." Bayton, "Women and the Electric Guitar" Agnew, Interview with drummer for '7-year Bitch'
<i>Week 4</i>	2/16-18
TOPICS:	Musical Masculinities: 'Cock Rock' and Beyond
READING:	Reynolds and Press, "I am the King..." Fast, "Whole Lotta Love: Performing Gender." Whitely, "Little Red Rooster v. The Honky Tonk Woman: Mick Jagger, Sexuality, Style and Image."
<i>Week 5</i>	2/23-25
TOPICS:	Grrrl Power: Making space for Women in Rock
READING:	"There's a Riot Going On: Grrrls Against Boy-Rock" Straw, "Sizing up Record Collections" Reynolds and Press, "Woman Unbound: Hysterics, Witches, and Mystics." 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."

Week 6		3/1-3/3
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		3/8-10
TOPICS:	Girly men and Mannish Women: Music, Drag, and Androgyny	
READING:	Bruzzi, "Mannish Girl: K.D. Lang..." Interview with "Phranc," in <i>Angry women of Rock and Roll</i> Gill, John. "Like Boy George Never Happened."	
Week 8		3/15-17
TOPICS:	Where are the Gays? Lost Histories/Prejudiced Histories	
READING:	Brown, "Tchaikovsky and his Music..." Tick, "Charles Ives and Gender Ideology" Thomas, "Was George Frideric Handel Gay?"	
Week 9		3/22-24
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		3/29-3/31
TOPICS:	Lost in Translation: A cross-cultural look at Music and Gender	
READING:	TBA	
Week 11	SPRING BREAK	4/5-7
Week 12		4/12-14

TOPICS: Gender and Country Music

READING: TBA

Week 13

4/19-21

TOPICS: Masculinity and Hip-Hop

READING: TBA

Week 14

4/26-28

TOPICS: A Man's World: Women in Classical Music

READING: TBA

Week 15

Final Presentations

5/3-5

Week 16

5/10

Finals Week: We will meet during our final exam time if needed for final presentations. Attendance is required.