



UNSW
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ARTS2123

Musicals, Dance and Popular Culture

Term Two // 2019

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

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Lecturers

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
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School Contact Information

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The School of the Arts and Media would like to Respectfully Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Bedegal (Kensington campus), Gadigal (City and Art & Design Campuses) and the Ngunnawal people (Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra) of the lands where each campus of UNSW is located.

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *Theatre and Performance Studies*

This course can also be studied in the following specialisation: *Media, Culture and Technology*

This is a course about popular performance in contemporary culture. You will learn about live entertainment across media and the arts in a wide range of genres, including musicals, dance, comedy, festivals and parades. With each genre, you will explore where it has come from, who it appeals to, and how it is performed in our culture today. The aim is to learn how cultural industries produce live entertainment with widespread appeal. This course is part of the Theatre and Performance Studies stream. It can also be studied as part of Media, Culture and Technology.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Discuss popular performance and the contexts in which it is produced, performed and consumed
2. Explain the historical traditions, contemporary conventions and cultural politics of popular performance
3. Construct an evidence-based argument about the significance of popular performance in contemporary culture
4. Integrate scholarly and creative research into popular performance and access resources independently

Teaching Strategies

Studying popular culture and live performance is an important part of understanding the contemporary world, and requires a mixture of different activities, some teacher-directed and some self-directed. This course uses a combination of lecture/presentations and tutorials. In addition to this students are expected to work independently, outside class time, reading, preparing, taking notes, planning practical activities, etc. These include: going to live performances, reading and reflecting through discussion and writing. The lectures are intended to lay out the issues of the week and set the agenda for tutorial discussion. Lectures provide some information but are expected to research extra material in preparation for class discussion. The tutorials are opportunities for group discussion and reflection.

Performance and Popular Culture extends knowledge of performance studies theory and methodology covered in the gateway course ARTS1121 Reading Performance and the level 2 core course ARTS2121 Critical Perspectives in Theatre and Performance Studies. It extends the curricula of these courses by focusing on popular performance, considering the popular along a continuum of social, cultural and aesthetic events, and integrating self-reflexive and performative learning and teaching strategies in both pedagogy and assessment.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
In Class Test	30%	02/07/2019 09:00 AM	1,2
Major Essay	40%	22/07/2019 11:59 PM	1,2,3,4
Group Presentations	30%	06/08/2019 09:00 AM	2,4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: In Class Test

Start date:

Length: 60 minutes

Details: This 60-minute test examines your understanding of key concepts about performance and popular culture. It is based on the course content (lectures, readings, and screenings) presented in weeks 1 to 4. Percentage grade and in-class review.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 2: Major Essay

Start date:

Length: 2000 words

Details: Your task is to write a 2,000 word essay that analyses a popular performance, paying close attention to conventions of participation, strategies of operation, cultural meanings, story lines and experiential effects. You must attend and document the performance, supporting your documentation with fieldwork notes, and contextualising your experience with scholarly research. Rubric indicating level of performance against each assessment criteria, written formative feedback, and percentage grade.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 3: Group Presentations

Start date:

Length: 5 minute performance and 500 words

Details: Your task is to work in a group of 2-4 students to create an entertaining five-minute performance, suitable for inclusion in a variety show, drawing on a genre of popular entertainment covered in the course. Each group will submit a written report (500 words per student), documenting the research undertaken and each student's contribution, and providing a list of references for the group's

work. Each student will also complete a peer review. Rubric indicating level of performance against each assessment criteria, written summative feedback, and percentage grade. This is the final assessment task.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 3 June - 7 June	Lecture	Popular performance today and historically (JB)
	Tutorial	Definitions – popular performance
	Online Activity	Six online modules (1 hour each) distributed through the course to be completed by week 10.
Week 2: 10 June - 14 June	Lecture	Dancing in the street - protest, parades and revolutions (JB)
	Tutorial	Popular performance in a public place
Week 3: 17 June - 21 June	Lecture	What's entertainment? Cabaret, musicals and escapism (JB)
	Tutorial	Utopian aspirations and entertainment
Week 4: 24 June - 28 June	Lecture	Spectacle and story - visual excess, popular narratives and cultural myths (JB)
	Tutorial	Music and the screen - selling 'cool'
Week 5: 1 July - 5 July	Lecture	Test (JB)
	Tutorial	Analysing performance - major essay
Week 6: 8 July - 12 July	Lecture	Jazz, Tap and Jive – African-American style from Broadway to Hollywood (EB)
	Tutorial	Visual history, kinaesthetic style, popular culture
Week 7: 15 July - 19 July	Lecture	Let It Go - Romance and desire in contemporary musicals (EB)
	Tutorial	Burlesque in retrospect
Week 8: 22 July - 26 July	Lecture	Music, dance and sociality (EB)
	Tutorial	Nightclubs, social dance and music venues today
Week 9: 29 July - 2 August	Lecture	Audition and aspiration - precarious labour and showbiz success (JB)
	Tutorial	Rehearsals for group presentations
Week 10: 5 August - 9 August	Lecture	Group presentations
	Tutorial	Reflections and evaluations

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Required readings

All required readings are available in the library with links from Moodle. Some sound and video recordings are also available online.

You are expected to print out or mark up a digital copy of the readings for each week and bring them to class. If you do not arrive at tutorials prepared (with evidence of marked up readings) tutors reserve the right to mark you as absent for that week.

If links to the readings in Moodle do not work, you are expected to source the reading directly from the library catalogue or database yourself and inform the lecturer immediately that the link is not working. Broken links are not an excuse for not having sourced and read the readings yourselves.

Recommended Resources

Research further

Suggestions for further research in the library and online are included in the course content. You can use these as starting point for researching your essay and as further reading on topics you find interesting. Where resources for further research are not available online, they may be borrowed from the library – a link to the library record is provided for these.

The library offers resources in a variety of formats – online articles, printed books, dvd recordings and streaming video. You can access all the ARTS2123 library resources directly and you can read more about library services for students at <http://library.unsw.edu.au>.

Students are also encouraged to bring relevant materials into class – including articles in the media, video recordings, performance reviews and information about upcoming performances.

Course Evaluation and Development

Valuing your feedback

Student feedback is gathered throughout this course both by informal feedback sessions, by CATEI processes and via student assessments which, particularly in the case of presentations in this course, are designed to indicate where students would like to see content in this course travelling to. Adjustments to the course content, presentation mode and structure have been made this year based on student feedback from the last two years.

What's new

This year we have added six online learning modules extending the range of popular performance we learn about. New content has been added, drawing on recent developments and current research; some content has been removed. In the last two years, students are given more opportunities to learn about musical theatre and popular dance, and more scope to be active learners in tutorials with a range of activities. Another innovation was the format for group presentations and opportunity for rehearsal.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

Image Credit

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