



ARTS2123

Musicals, Dance and Popular Culture

Term Two // 2021

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

| Name | Email | Availability | Location | Phone |
|-----------------|--|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Jonathan Bollen | j.bollen@unsw.edu.au | See moodle for office hours | Robert Webster 246D | 02 9385 0719 |

Lecturers

| Name | Email | Availability | Location | Phone |
|----------------|--|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Erin Brannigan | e.brannigan@unsw.edu.au | See moodle for office hours | Robert Webster 119 | 02 9385 7854 |

School Contact Information

School of the Arts and Media

Room 312, Level 3, Robert Webster Building (G14)

Phone: (02) 9385 4856

Email: sam@unsw.edu.au

Website: www.arts.unsw.edu.au/sam

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

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 specialisation. 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 performance in popular culture is part of understanding the contemporary world. It requires a mixture of different learning activities; some teacher-directed and some self-directed. ARTS2123 uses a combination of lecture/presentations and tutorials. In addition to this, students work independently outside class time, reading, preparing and taking notes, going to see live performances and planning practical activities.

The lectures explore the issues and themes of each topic and set the agenda for tutorial discussion. Students are expected to research further in preparation for class discussion. The tutorials are opportunities for group discussion and reflection. Students are encouraged to develop their own interests in musicals, dance and other genres of popular performance.

This course extends the study of performance to popular genres in contemporary culture. Within the Theatre and Performance Studies specialisation, it builds on knowledge of performance studies introduced in the gateway course, ARTS1121, and the level 2 core course, ARTS2121.

Assessment

See course moodle for further details on assessment, including task instructions and assessment criteria.

Assessment Tasks

| Assessment task | Weight | Due Date | Student Learning Outcomes Assessed |
|---------------------|--------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Major Essay | 40% | 07/07/2021 11:59 PM | 1, 2, 3, 4 |
| Group Presentations | 30% | 04/08/2021 11:00 AM | 2, 4 |
| Test | 30% | 06/08/2021 11:59 PM | 1, 2 |

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Major Essay

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 2: Group Presentations

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

Assessment 3: Test

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 during the course. Percentage grade.

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: 31 May - 4 June | Lecture | The Twist: Performance and Popular Culture JB |
| | Tutorial | Popular culture – defining key terms |
| Week 2: 7 June - 11 June | Lecture | Jazz, tap and jive: African-American style from Broadway to Hollywood EB |
| | Tutorial | Music and the Screen – African American aesthetics in music video |
| Week 3: 15 June - 18 June | Lecture | Dancing in the street: Protests, riots, revolutions and parades - Mardi Gras and Les Miserables JB |
| | Tutorial | Popular performance and protest today - Hamilton and the Black Lives Matter movement |
| Week 4: 21 June - 25 June | Lecture | What's entertainment? Cabaret, musicals and escapism - The Wizard of Oz, Cabaret, The Boy from Oz JB |
| | Tutorial | Entertainment and utopia in popular culture today |
| Week 5: 28 June - 2 July | Lecture | Anything Goes: Spectacle and story on Broadway - Show Boat, Sound of Music, Company JB |
| | Tutorial | Broadway - The American Musical - watch party and discussion |
| Week 6: 5 July - 9 July | Assessment | Major Essay due |
| Week 7: 12 July - 16 July | Lecture | Let It Go - Romance and desire in contemporary musicals - Wicked, Frozen, Matilda JB |
| | Tutorial | Burlesque in retrospect - Gypsy, the Tivoli and neo-burlesque |
| Week 8: 19 July - 23 July | Lecture | Music, dance and sociality - nightclubs, dance parties, music festivals, music concerts EB |
| | Tutorial | Participation and the popular - social dancing and digital culture |
| Week 9: 26 July - 30 July | Lecture | Audition and aspiration - precarious labour and showbiz success - A Chorus Line, Fame, Flashdance, La La Land JB |
| | Tutorial | Rehearsing for group presentations |
| Week 10: 2 August - 6 August | Lecture | Group Presentations - Io Myers Studio |
| | Tutorial | Reflections on performances and course review |
| | Assessment | Online test due |

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 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 MyExperience 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 covering. Adjustments to the course content, presentation mode and structure have been made this year based on student feedback from recent years. Each year new content is added, reflecting recent developments in research, and some old content is removed.

What's new

Last year we added new online learning activities extending the range of popular performance we learn about and deepening engagement with particular case studies. We also moved to a new pattern of delivery, extending the time for each tutorial to provide more opportunities for interactive learning, and delivering the course over 9 weeks with a break in week 6. Over recent years, students have been given more opportunities to learn about musical theatre and popular dance, and more scope to become active learners in tutorials. Another innovation is the format for group presentations and opportunity for rehearsal.

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

Theatre and Performance Studies, UNSW Sydney, 2020.

CRICOS

CRICOS Provider Code: 00098G

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bedegal people who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which UNSW Kensington campus is located.