Liverpool John Moores University

Title: RESEARCHING POPULAR MUSIC
Status: Definitive
Code: **4008POP**   (110903)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2011

Owning School/Faculty: Liverpool School of Art & Design
Teaching School/Faculty: Liverpool School of Art & Design

Team	Leader
Simone Kruger	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ4   **Credit Value:** 12.00   **Total Delivered Hours:** 36.00

Total Learning Hours: 120   **Private Study:** 84

Delivery Options
Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	12.000
Seminar	24.000

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	Research essay - 1,500 words	60.0	
Essay	AS2	Reflexive essay - 1,000 words	40.0	

Aims

To introduce students to research strategies used in popular music studies

To encourage students to address practical, theoretical, methodological and ethical issues when completing research.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

1   employ a combination of research methods;
2   critique research approaches used to study popular music as text;
3   evaluate research approaches used to examine the workings of music and culture industries;
4   assess research approaches used to study and understand the fans and audiences of popular music;
5   communicate effectively in writing, showing evidence of reading.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

ESSAY   1   5

ESSAY   2   3   4   5

Outline Syllabus

• *Introduction to the module. What is research, and why do it?*
• *Quantitative versus qualitative research methods*
• *The role of the literature review*
• *Designing a research project in popular music*
• *Ethical considerations*
• *Researching pop music as text, e.g. narrative analysis, oral history, auteur study, star study*
• *Researching music and culture industries, e.g. archive research, interview, observation, oral history*
• *Researching pop music audiences, e.g. ethnography, observing, interviewing, focus group, oral history*
• *Presenting research in writing*
• *Evaluating research*

Learning Activities

The module will be delivered by a combination of lectures and seminars. Lectures will provide students with the underpinning theoretical knowledge and understanding about subject-specific issues and academic skills. Seminars will enable students to apply theoretical knowledge that involves problem-solving through tutor-led discussion and debate. Students will be actively encouraged to develop skills and knowledge progressively, and seminars will facilitate gradual development of key academic skills, including communication and interpersonal skills. Students' learning will be supported through using the Virtual Learning Environment Blackboard, which

serves as a resource bank for module materials, and as a platform for student-student and student-tutor online interaction (with its inbuilt communication tools, including email and discussion board). Students will also engage in self-directed study and research to acquire knowledge and skills independently and autonomously, whilst taking responsibility for the quantity and quality of their learning.

References

Course Material	Book
Author	Creswell, J. W.
Publishing Year	2005
Title	Educational Research
Subtitle	Planning, Conducting, and Evaluating Quantitative and Qualitative Research
Edition	
Publisher	New Jersey: Pearson Education.
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Krüger, S.
Publishing Year	2008
Title	Ethnography in the Performing Arts
Subtitle	A Student Guide
Edition	
Publisher	Lancaster: PALATINE.
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	LeCompte, M. D. and Schensul J.J. (eds)
Publishing Year	1999
Title	Ethnographer's Toolkit, 7 volumes
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Oxford: Altamira Press.
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Sampsel, L. J.
Publishing Year	2008
Title	Music Research
Subtitle	A Handbook
Edition	
Publisher	Open University Press

ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Stokes, J.
Publishing Year	2003
Title	How to do Media and Cultural Studies
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	London: Sage.
ISBN	

Notes

This module will introduce students to research strategies used in popular music studies, whilst building upon the knowledge gained from the module Approaches to Studying Popular Music. It will explore the applicability of certain research approaches for studying popular music as text, examining music institutions or exploring popular music audiences. Students will be introduced to the process of research while considering its importance and problems, grasping the steps taken and skills necessary by researchers in the process of research, and identifying ethical issues. Students will also learn the basic characteristics of quantitative and qualitative research together with the procedures for implementing the two approaches at each step of the research process.