



COURSE OUTLINE

MUS201 Music and Pop Culture

Course Coordinator: Lachlan Goold (lgoold@usc.edu.au) **School:** School of Business and Creative Industries

2021 | Semester 2

USC Sunshine Coast

ON CAMPUS

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

Please go to the USC website for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1. Description

In this course, you will study the history of popular music in 20th and 21st Century Western traditions. You will use this knowledge to engage in creative tasks that will include stylistic songwriting and historically informed production and recording techniques. These tasks will culminate in a sound recording reflective of your historically informed approach to songwriting and production.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
ON CAMPUS			
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – In-class tutorial	3hrs	Week 1	12 times

1.3. Course Topics

Blues music,
Jazz music,
Tin-Pan Alley,
Rock n Roll, Funk, Soul and Disco,
Country music,
Hip-Hop,
Electronica,
Music Production

2. What level is this course?

200 Level (Developing)

Building on and expanding the scope of introductory knowledge and skills, developing breadth or depth and applying knowledge and skills in a new context. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally, undertaken in the second or third full-time year of an undergraduate programs.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES		GRADUATE QUALITIES
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...		Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...
1	Analyse and assess the connection between key historical events, cultural contexts, politics, music and popular culture	Sustainability-focussed
2	Build critical discussions regarding popular music and its cultural and social context using key academic frameworks.	Knowledgeable
3	Develop an intermediate knowledge of song and lyric writing based on the practices of relevant historical periods in popular music.	Knowledgeable
4	Develop an intermediate knowledge of record and music production based on the practices of relevant historical periods in music recording.	Knowledgeable
5	Produce a recorded music artefact of your own creative work taking into consideration particular historical music production processes.	Creative and critical thinker

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [USC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

5.1. Pre-requisites

Not applicable

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Not applicable

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL).

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

An opportunity exists in every workshop to produce and perform creative work individually and/or in small peer groups. Using assessment criteria and an assessment rubric, provided to students prior to commencing, students will self-assess and peer assess throughout the entire course. This assessment will be moderated and finalised by the Course Coordinator.

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Artefact - Creative	Individual	30%	7 minutes	Week 5	Online Assignment Submission
All	2	Written Piece	Individual	30%	2000 words	Week 10	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece	Individual	40%	2-5 minute recording and 500 words	Exam Period	Online Assignment Submission

All - Assessment Task 1: Presentation of a Producer and Production Innovation

GOAL:	In this assessment, you will present your research on a producer or particular production innovation from the 19th and 20th century recording industry.		
PRODUCT:	Artefact - Creative		
FORMAT:	You will select and research a music producer or innovative production technique with reference to a particular historical period and develop a 7-minute oral presentation discussing the historical context, technical information and reasoning of your choice.		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Demonstration relevant research of music production topic	1 4
	2	Demonstration of technical understanding of the music production topic	4
	3	Demonstration of creative understanding and application of music production topic	4
	4	Developing an engaging and concise presentation including digital presentation tools	4

All - Assessment Task 2: Analysis of a Song of your Choice

GOAL:	In this assessment, you will select a song from a particular time period and research, analyse and discuss the work and its social and cultural context.		
PRODUCT:	Written Piece		
FORMAT:	You will select and research a song of your choosing and perform a multimodal analysis of the work with reference to the cultural and social context and its perceived meaning. You will engage in aural analysis and research to identify, analyse and evaluate elements in your selected work.		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Demonstration of relevant research of your chosen song	1 2 4
	2	Demonstration of ability to analyse musical elements of the work	2 3
	3	Demonstration of ability to apply a multimodal framework to your analysis	1 2
	4	Demonstration of the relevance of the work within its cultural and social context	1 2

All - Assessment Task 3: Historic Production of Original Song

GOAL:	In this assessment, you will apply your knowledge as a songwriter to produce a original creative work using a historically relevant production approach.		
PRODUCT:	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece		
FORMAT:	You will demonstrate your knowledge of popular music history and its associated production and songwriting practices to develop an original stylised recording of a song. You will apply the technical approaches outlined in the learning materials to create a sound recording and outline in a 500-word brief of what your original production intentions were and the technical processes involved.		

CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Implementation of technical processes in the stylised sound recording 5
	2	Demonstration of creative approaches to stylised sound recording 4 5
	3	Demonstration of ability to align stylistic intentions as outlined in the written brief with the recorded artefact 3 4
	4	Demonstrate stylised approach to songwriting and lyric writing. 3 5

7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Directed study hours may vary by location. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Blackboard site– Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

There are no required/recommended resources for this course.

8.2. Specific requirements

Nil

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Risk assessments have been performed for all laboratory classes and a low level of health and safety risk exists. Some risk concerns may include equipment, instruments, and tools; as well as manual handling items within the laboratory. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online induction training for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Blackboard, are electronically checked through SafeAssign. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work that SafeAssign has access to.

10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%

The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct.

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks may be penalised at the following maximum rate:

- 5% (of the assessment task's identified value) per day for the first two days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- 10% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the third day - 20% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the fourth day and subsequent days up to and including seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.
- A result of zero is awarded for an assessment task submitted after seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task. Weekdays and weekends are included in the calculation of days late. To request an extension you must contact your course coordinator to negotiate an outcome.

10.4. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the [Learning Advisers](#) web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au.

10.5. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226.

10.6. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, , injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email AccessAbility@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 2890.

10.7. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Administration of Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Academic Misconduct
- Students with a Disability

Visit the USC website: <http://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.8. General Enquiries

In person:

- **USC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **USC Moreton Bay** - Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **USC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **USC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **USC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **USC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au