

Syllabus
Music 87 – Freshman Seminar
Popular Music and Globalization
Fall 2003
University of California, San Diego

Instructor: Dr. David Borgo

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Office Hours: Tuesday 10:30-11:30 and Friday 12:30-1:30 (or by appointment)

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Program Description

The Freshman Seminar Program is designed to provide new students with the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member in a small seminar setting.

Course Summary

This course investigates aspects of mass media influence on musical production and consumption, focusing critical attention on the category of "world music" in the West and the numerous issues surrounding the continuing globalization of hybrid popular music forms.

Grading

The grading for this course is done exclusively on a Pass/Not Pass basis. To earn a passing grade, you will be expected to attend all four meetings of the seminar, do the outside reading assignments, participate actively in class discussions, and make a short final presentation to the class and lead discussion on some original research relating to the course. Some guidelines for this presentation appear on the back of this sheet and further specifics will be discussed in class.

Class Schedule

Please Note: All meetings take place in H&SS 1346

Thursday, Nov 13 - 2:30-4:50

Tuesday, Nov 18 - 2:30-4:50

Thursday, Nov 20 - 2:30-4:50

Tuesday, Dec 2 - 2:30-4:50 - Student final presentations

Class Presentations

- Chose a “global pop” artist or group that employs a fusion of musical styles and whose work highlights issues relevant to the class discussions. Some themes you may wish to pursue include:
 - issues of identity and authenticity
 - issues of hegemony (of economy, intellect, prestige, etc.)
 - strategies of social or political resistance (global and local orientations)
 - issues regarding the global music marketplace or global audiences
 - specific musical and social ramifications of cross-cultural collaboration
- Be prepared to overview the artist’s career, but do not get bogged down in biographical details. A quick synopsis of career highlights or significant aspects of his/her cultural background that may help us to understand his/her musical process or socio-political stance will suffice.
- Whenever possible, use in-class musical examples to illustrate the broader points you are making. You may choose to look at only one song in detail or to provide a brief sampling of relevant material depending on the goals of your presentation.
- I am happy to discuss the topic or approach for your presentation in advance. Good Luck!