

Syllabus
Music 87 – Freshman Seminar
South African Music and Politics
Fall 2004
University of California, San Diego

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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

South African music not only represents the diverse (and frequently divisive) cultural history of the region, but it has also played an important role in international musical collaborations and in bringing international attention to the political struggles of the nation, both during and after Apartheid. This course provides an introduction to the sounds and sentiments of South Africa and highlights the ways in which music in general can articulate and shape important political and social issues. We will also investigate 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 below and further specifics will be discussed in class.

Class Schedule (Please Note: All meetings take place in H&SS 1346)

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

Tuesday, Nov 9 - 2:30-4:50

Tuesday, Nov 16 - 2:30-4:50

??? - Student final presentations

Class Presentations

Each student will present to the class for approximately 10 minutes her/his independent research on a South African musical topic (e.g. an individual artist or song, or a traditional style/genre, etc.) or on a cross-cultural collaboration that involves South Africa in some way. Please be prepared to share an excerpt of music with the class (tech needs like internet can be provided for), to contextualize the example historically, culturally, and politically, and, if possible, offer some analytical discussion of the performance. I am happy to discuss the topic or approach for your presentation in advance.