



Course Unit: Communication, Research, and Critical Thinking Skills (B 07b)

Semester	2
Hours per week	4
Contact hours (total)	32 h
Individual study	28 h

Language of Tuition/Assessment	English
Group size (max)	20
ECTS credits	2
Lecturer	Prof Dr. Scott Henderson, Brock University, CANADA

Objectives: This course allows students to develop their research and critical thinking skills by focusing on the issue of European popular music. We will specifically consider its social, political, and economic contexts from the 1960s to the present. Attention will be paid to ways in which popular music, as a form of communication, has participated in, and been enlisted in, formations of national, regional, and European identities. This will be placed in the larger context of contemporary globalization; the relationship of European pop artists, fans, consumers, and traditions to broader global flows of communication, culture and capital will be explored. This course provides students with valuable knowledge and skills in written and spoken communication as well as the enhanced research and critical thinking skills that will support their academic and professional success.

Content:

- Module 1: Popular Music as a Cultural Industry
- Module 2: Understanding Europop and the European Music Industries
- Module 3: Music and National Identity: German Music After WW2; From Schlager to Krautrock
- Module 4: Social and Political Aspects: Censorship and Regulation
- Module 5: Media, Globalization, and Technology
- Module 6: Local Consumption, Production and Identity in a Digital Era
- Module 7: Big Business in Europe: The Eurovision Song Contest

Method: Interactive Lecture with various active learning exercises, including student presentations.

Prerequisites This course does not build up on any other courses offered on campus. As the language of instruction and assessment will be English, students need to be fluent in English - both in terms of oral and written communication.

Assessment: Written essay paper (50%), oral presentation (30%), participation in discussion (20%)

Readings: Will be announced through myStudy