

CUS511N Topics in Cultural Institution and Policy: Music and Subculture

文化體制與政策專題：音樂與次文化

Course Title	:	Topics in Cultural Institution and Policy: Music and Subculture 文化體制與政策專題：音樂與次文化
Course Code	:	CUS511N
No. of Credits	:	3 credits
Mode of Tuition	:	3 hours of lecture
Class Contact Hours	:	3 hours per week, 42 hours for the whole course
Category	:	Elective course
Discipline	:	Cultural Studies
Prerequisite(s)	:	Nil
Co-requisite(s)	:	Nil
Exclusion(s)	:	Nil
Exemption Requirements	:	Nil
Brief Course Description	:	This course examines the intersection of contemporary cultural production, socio-political resistance, and modernity at large through the global and regional ecosystems of Popular Music. Implementing critical methods from textual and sonic analysis, ethnography, subcultural studies, and the sociology of music, the course positions popular music in two ways: first, as rich, globally popularised, and symptomatic texts that represent the anxieties, desires, and realities of youth culture and class struggle; and second, as an active cultural field where bottom-up movements, anti-racist mobilisation, and global cultural flows act as defining factors that fundamentally constitute the material, aesthetic, and structural transformation of selected works and genres.

Key themes include subcultural resistance, Do-It-Yourself (DIY) and Do-It-Together (DIT) production networks, fandom and collective identity, music and social movements, institutional racism, and class struggle, addressing their influence on and illumination of both underground and mainstream cultural practices and political structures. The course provides students with the critical theoretical and historical knowledge required to understand the significance of high-impact youth culture and sonic activism—such as blues, rock, punk, post-punk, jazz, hip-hop, reggae, and other significant musical genres—in a rapidly globalising world. Seminal and phenomenal works within the popular music landscape—spanning protest anthems, subcultural scenes, and digital fan communities—are investigated to respond to these highly critical and sociological themes. Consequently, students will grasp the complex, evolving relationships between changing concepts of ‘culture’, ‘resistance’, ‘solidarity’, ‘modernity’, and the ‘commoning’ of sound.