

MUS201 Music and Pop Culture**School:** School of Business and Creative Industries

2025 | Semester 2

UniSC Sunshine Coast

**BLENDED
LEARNING**

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

Please go to usc.edu.au 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 and culture in 20th and 21st Century Western traditions. You will use this knowledge to engage in analytical and creative tasks that include songwriting, production and recording. These tasks will culminate in a sound recording reflective of a chosen historically informed approach to songwriting and studio production.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

| ACTIVITY | HOURS | BEGINNING WEEK | FREQUENCY |
|---|-------|----------------|-----------|
| BLENDED LEARNING | | | |
| Learning materials – Interactive online learning activities. | 1hr | Week 1 | 12 times |
| Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Scheduled face to face workshops. | 2hrs | Week 1 | 12 times |

1.3. Course Topics

- Blues
- Jazz
- Tin-Pan Alley
- Rock n Roll
- Funk
- Soul and Disco
- Punk
- Country
- Hip-Hop
- Electronica
- Critical listening
- Musicology
- Music Production
- Recording studio

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 | Examine and participate in critical discussions regarding popular music and its cultural and social context using key academic frameworks. | Creative and critical thinker |
| 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. | Engaged |

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

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

5.1. Pre-requisites

MUS100 or MUS101

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% | 5 minutes + slides with references | Week 5 | In Class |
| All | 2 | Written Piece | Individual | 30% | 2000 words | Week 10 | Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check |
| All | 3 | Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece | Individual and Group | 40% | 2-5 minute recording and 500 words | Exam Period | Online 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 20th and 21st-century recording industry. | | |
| PRODUCT: | Artefact - Creative | | |
| FORMAT: | You will select and research a music producer and/or innovative production technique and develop a 5-minute oral presentation discussing the historical context, technical information and reasoning of your choice. You must submit your slides/visuals including references. | | |
| CRITERIA: | No. | | Learning Outcome assessed |
| | 1 | Analysing and situating knowledge of topic with relevant research. | 1 |
| | 2 | Developing technical understanding of the topic. | 4 |
| | 3 | Developing an understanding of the creative application of topic. | 4 |
| | 4 | Developing an engaging and concise presentation including digital presentation tools. | 4 |
| | | | |
| GENERIC SKILLS: | Communication, Information literacy | | |

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 a song and use critical listening to analyse the production aspects of the work. You will situate this analysis with reference to the cultural and social context and production choices. You need to provide a reference list. | | |
| CRITERIA: | No. | | Learning Outcome assessed |
| | 1 | Analysing and situating your song with relevant research. | 1 |
| | 2 | Developing analysis of music production using critical listening. | 4 |
| | 3 | Examining the music production choices in cultural and social contexts. | 2 |
| | 4 | Evaluating songwriting practices and music production approaches based on relevant historical periods. | 3 |
| | | | |
| GENERIC SKILLS: | Communication, Information literacy | | |

All - Assessment Task 3: Historic Production of Original Song

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|
| GOAL: | This assessment aims to apply your knowledge as a songwriter and producer to create an original work using a historically informed production approach. | | |
| PRODUCT: | Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece | | |
| FORMAT: | You will create a recording of an original song individually or as a group that demonstrates an applied knowledge of specific historical production and songwriting practice. This recording will implement technical knowledge of relevant historical production and songwriting practice to create a sound recording. You will outline your contribution to the songwriting and production choices detailing your approaches as social and cultural acts in a 500-word brief. | | |
| CRITERIA: | No. | | Learning Outcome assessed |
| | 1 | Developing appropriate technical processes in the music production. | 4 |
| | 2 | Producing an artefact demonstrating creative approaches to historical music production. | 5 |
| | 3 | Examining songwriting and production decisions as social and cultural acts as outlined in the written brief. | 2 |
| | 4 | Developing song and lyric writing based on the practices of relevant historical periods in popular music. | 3 |
| GENERIC SKILLS: | Communication, Problem solving, Organisation, Applying technologies | | |

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. 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 Canvas 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

It is recommended that students have basic DAW competency for this course.

Students are expected to make themselves available for autonomous recording sessions. Students must therefore consider their availability on evenings and weekends as well as normal working hours.

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Risk assessments have been performed for all studio and 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 Canvas, are electronically checked through Turnitin. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work to which Turnitin has access.

10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

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

- (a) The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%; and
- (b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submissions may be penalised up to and including the following maximum percentage of the assessment task's identified value, with weekdays and weekends included in the calculation of days late:

- (a) One day: deduct 5%;
- (b) Two days: deduct 10%;
- (c) Three days: deduct 20%;
- (d) Four days: deduct 40%;
- (e) Five days: deduct 60%;
- (f) Six days: deduct 80%;
- (g) Seven days: A result of zero is awarded for the assessment task.

The following penalties will apply for a late submission for an online examination:

Less than 15 minutes: No penalty

From 15 minutes to 30 minutes: 20% penalty

More than 30 minutes: 100% penalty

10.4. SafeUniSC

UniSC is committed to a culture of respect and providing a safe and supportive environment for all members of our community. For immediate assistance on campus contact SafeUniSC by phone: [07 5430 1168](tel:0754301168) or using the [SafeZone](#) app. For general enquires contact the SafeUniSC team by phone [07 5456 3864](tel:0754563864) or email safe@usc.edu.au.

The SafeUniSC Specialist Service is a Student Wellbeing service that provides free and confidential support to students who may have experienced or observed behaviour that could cause fear, offence or trauma. To contact the service call [07 5430 1226](tel:0754301226) or email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au.

10.5. 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.

10.6. 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.

10.7. 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.

10.8. 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
- Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Conduct
- Students with a Disability

For more information, visit <https://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.9. Student Charter

UniSC is committed to excellence in teaching, research and engagement in an environment that is inclusive, inspiring, safe and respectful. The [Student Charter](#) sets out what students can expect from the University, and what in turn is expected of students, to achieve these outcomes.

10.10. General Enquiries

In person:

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

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au