

Music and Masculinity

This undergraduate seminar examines a variety of twentieth and twenty-first century musical genres and practices as construction sites of American masculinity. Focusing on popular music in the United States, the course emphasizes transatlantic and diasporic musical production as key to understanding American masculinities. By engaging recent scholarship spanning feminist theory, musicology, American studies, sociology, law, and critical race theory, students will explore topics such as masculinity in Jazz, transatlantic boy bands, drag performance, music and the AIDS crisis, White masculinity and Rock, hearing loss, hip hop and the prison state, and more. The course aims to encourage students to think critically about patterns of male participation in musical culture and constructions of masculinity in musical sound and performance.

Examples of seminar themes and assigned texts:

Listening and Hearing Loss

Jonathan Sterne, "Hearing," in *Keywords in Sound*, ed. David Novak and Matt Sakakeeny (2015), 65-77.

Karin Bijsterveld, "Listening to Machines: Industrial Noise, Hearing Loss and the Cultural Meaning of Sound," in *The Sound Studies Reader*, ed. Jonathan Sterne (2012), 152-167.

R. W. Connell, "The Science of Masculinity" in *Masculinities* (1995, 2005), 27-44.

Music, AIDS, and the Body

Paul Attinello, "Closeness and Distance: Songs about AIDS," in *Queering the Popular Pitch* (2006), 221-234.

Bob Ostertag, "All the Rage, Spiral, and Pantychrist," *Creative Life: Creative Life: Music, Politics, People, and Machines* (2009), 115-130.

Klaus Nomi, *Death [Dido's Lament]* (1982). Video.

Hip Hop and the Prison State

Teresa A. Miller, "Incarcerated Masculinities," in *Progressive Black Masculinities*, ed. Athena D. Mutua ((2006), 155-173.

bell hooks, "Gangsta Culture: A Piece of the Action," in *We Real Cool: Black Men and Masculinity* (2004), 15-31.

Miles White, "Real Niggas: Black Men, Hard Men, and the Rise of Gangsta Culture," *From Jim Crow to Jay-Z: Race, Rap, and the Performance of Masculinity* (2011), 63-88.

Boys and Beatles

Stan Hawkins, "On Male Queering in Mainstream Pop," in *Queering the Popular Pitch* (2006), 279-294.

Jennifer J* Moos, "Boy Band Culture, Transnational Exchange, and the Marketing of 'Uncool' Masculinity," in *Is it 'Cause it's Cool?: Affective Encounters with American Culture* (2014), 225-254.

Jennifer Margaret Smith, "Which Direction?: The Homoerotic Masculinities in the Modern Boy Band," *Antenna* media and cultural studies blog, University of Wisconsin – Madison (April 20, 2012).

Rock Masculinities

Richard Dyer, "The Matter of Whiteness," in *White* (1997), 1-40.

Marion Leonard, "Rock and Masculinity," in *Gender and the Music Industry* (2006), 23-42.

Will Straw, "Sizing Up Record Collections: Gender and Connoisseurship in Rock Music Culture," in *Sexing the Groove: Popular Music and Gender*, ed. Sheila Whiteley (1997), 3-16.

Jazz Masculinities

Göran Olsson dir., *The Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975* (Stockholm: Story AB, 2011). Film. 100 minutes.

AJ Johnson, "Trumpet Men: Performances of Jazz Masculinity" (2010), 1-26. Available at Academia.edu.

Queer Music and First Class Citizenship

Ellie Hisama, "Diving into the Earth': The Musical Worlds of Julius Eastman," *Rethinking Difference in Music Scholarship*, eds. Olivia Bloechl, Melanie Lowe, Jeffrey Kallberg (2015) 260-286.

Catherine Baker, "The Gay World Cup?: The Eurovision Song Contest, LGBT Equality and Human Rights after the Cold War," presented at University of Hull (2014). Available on BakerCatherine.com.

Drag Performance

Annie Randall, "Doing Dusty: Discourses of Drag and Tribute Performance," *Dusty!: Queen of the Post Mods* (2009)

Eileen Hayes, "Guys like Us: Community Membership Revisited," *Songs in Black and Lavender: Sexual Politics, and Women's Music* (2010), 148-174.

Jelena Novak, "Vocal Drag, Counter-Castrato, and the Scandal of the Singing Body," *Postopera: Reinventing the Voice Body* (2015), 133-147.

Angela Washko, *Playing a Girl* (2014). Video.

Karaoke, Otaku, and Asian-American Masculinity

Casey Man Kong Lum, "Karaoke and the Construction of Identity," In *Search of a Voice: Karaoke and the Construction of National Identity* (2009), 98-111.

Nightlife and Rape

David Grazian, "The Girl Hunt: Urban Nightlife and the Performance of Masculinity as Collective Identity," *Symbolic Interaction* 30 (2007), 221-243.

bell hooks, "Don't Make Me Hurt You," in *We Real Cool: Black Men and Masculinity* (2004), 44-62.

Matt Alt, "Pharrell Williams's Lolicon Video," *The New Yorker* (October 15, 2014).

Cyborgs, Death, and The Tupac Hologram

Michael Eric Dyson, "Epilogue: How Long Will They Mourn Me?: Posthumous Presences of a Ghetto Saint," in *Holler if you can hear me: Searching for Tupac Shakur* (2001), 247-268.

Butch and Trans*

Judith [Jack] Halberstam, "Transgender Butch: Butch/FTM Border Wars and the Masculine Continuum," in *Feminist Theory: A Reader*, ed. Wendy K. Kolmar et al. (2005), 550-560.

Stella Bruzzi, "Mannish Girl: k.d. lang - From Cowpunk to Androgyny," *Sexing the Groove: Popular Music and Gender* (1997), 191-206.