# COURSE DETAIL

## MUSIC AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN MODERN BRITAIN, FROM BALLADS TO BRITPOP

**Country**
United Kingdom - England

**Host Institution**
University of London, Queen Mary

**Program(s)**
University of London, Queen Mary

**UCEAP Course Level**
Upper Division

**UCEAP Subject Area(s)**
History Film & Media Studies

**UCEAP Course Number**
145

**UCEAP Course Suffix**

**UCEAP Official Title**
MUSIC AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN MODERN BRITAIN, FROM BALLADS TO BRITPOP

**UCEAP Transcript Title**
MUSIC & SOC CHANGE

**UCEAP Quarter Units**
6.00

**UCEAP Semester Units**
4.00

**Course Description**
This course explores the sound track to life in modern Britain. From the concert culture and street ballads of the late eighteenth century to the brass bands and music halls of the Victorians, and from the dawn of the ‘Jazz Age’ to rock ‘n’ roll, punk and beyond, this course focuses on the ways in which music has shaped, and been shaped by, British society. Transformative processes – the Industrial Revolution, democratization, imperial expansion and decline, campaigns for gender, racial and sexual equality, to name a few – have all made their mark on British music, just as British music has played its part in bringing these changes into being. The course revolves around a series of repeating thematic motifs whose development we will track from the nineteenth century into the twentieth. In these years, music became a way of defining class hierarchies, enforcing women’s social marginalization, and projecting British imperial power. And yet it was also a weapon of resistance that offered a sense of solidarity, of identity, of dignity, to those marginalized in British life; the musical lives and struggles of the working classes, of women, and of Black and Asian British communities are central to this history. This is also a course designed by a historian, for historians. While music is our central focus, an ability to read music is not required. Our emphasis will be on the social and cultural meanings of music-making and listening, meanings that are accessible through a wide range of sources, from diaries, memoirs, letters, magazines, newspapers, and official archives to visual images and material culture. That said, we will do plenty of listening to music as we seek to understand how the form that music took – the nature of the sounds being created – reflected and challenged social values and norms. While this course finishes with the sounds of Britpop in the 1990s, poised on the verge of our current internet age which has opened a new chapter in musical life, the implications of our study of music and social change in modern Britain carry important legacies that continue to define the music and society of today.

**Language(s) of Instruction**
English

**Host Institution Course Number**
HST5383

**Host Institution Course Title**
MUSIC AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN MODERN BRITAIN, FROM BALLADS TO BRITPOP

**Host Institution Course Details**
https://qmplus.qmul.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=11885

**Host Institution Campus**
Queen Mary

**Host Institution Faculty**

**Host Institution Degree**

**Host Institution Department**
History

**Course Last Reviewed**
2020-2021

Print