

## COURSE DETAIL

### POPULAR CULTURE AND PROTEST IN RECENT HISTORY AND LITERATURE

**Country**

Denmark

**Host Institution**

Aarhus University

**Program(s)**

Aarhus University

**UCEAP Course Level**

Upper Division

**UCEAP Subject Area(s)**

History English

**UCEAP Course Number**

114

**UCEAP Course Suffix****UCEAP Official Title**

POPULAR CULTURE AND PROTEST IN RECENT HISTORY AND LITERATURE

**UCEAP Transcript Title**

POP CULTR & PROTEST

**UCEAP Quarter Units**

8.00

**UCEAP Semester Units**

## Course Description

This course examines multiple interactions/connections/confrontations between popular culture products and acts of political and social protest/resistance in the historical and contemporary English-speaking world. It demonstrates how the political and cultural worlds collide/intersect as they study the uses, meanings, symbolic language, motives, and activations of popular culture works in the context of collective acts of protest. The course not only looks at the obvious tension between popular culture and protest, when the former is defined solely along the lines of the "mainstream," but the overlooked and fertile infusion of the two, as in the connections between the abolitionist movement and slave narratives, between the Harlem Renaissance, Jazz, Civil Rights and the Black Arts Movement, between working class activism and realist writing, between modernist experimentation and feminism, between carnivalization and the LGBT movement, between the Windrush Generation, Reggae, Black British poetry, etc. It also explores the activation and sometimes adaptation of popular culture within contexts of collective acts of protest for greater rights/influence/power for marginalized groups organized around gender, sexuality, ethnicity/race, class, generation/age, etc. Employing an interdisciplinary approach, this course draws on concepts and theories from history, literary studies, political communication (among potentially other options), applied to the study of the connections between popular culture actors and their works and sites of collective action. The course firsts gives a general introduction to the core concepts and theories of the course, followed by modules organized around various genres of cultural production, including (but not exclusively) music (e.g. slave songs, Jazz, Reggae, Hip Hop), theatre (e.g. musical theatre, Vaudeville, literature (e.g. slave narratives, Harlem Renaissance, performance poetry, post-colonial texts, graphic novels), visual arts (e.g. Black Arts Movement, protest graffiti), physical monuments (e.g. Confederate statues, imperial figures). The course thus examines the ways that popular culture is mobilized to advance the collective causes of marginalized and disadvantaged groups in their historical and contemporary struggle for liberation and equality, and how

"high" as well as "popular" literature play a role in this.

**Language(s) of Instruction**

English

**Host Institution Course Number**

132221U001

**Host Institution Course Title**

POPULAR CULTURE AND PROTEST IN RECENT HISTORY AND LITERATURE

**Host Institution Course Details**

<https://kursuskatalog.au.dk/en/course/127780/Popular-Culture-and-Protest-in-Rec...>

**Host Institution Campus****Host Institution Faculty**

Arts

**Host Institution Degree**

Bachelor

**Host Institution Department**

School of Communication and Culture

**Course Last Reviewed**

2024-2025

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