

## COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

**Academic School/Department:** Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

**Programme:** Communications

**FHEQ Level:** 4

**Course Title:** Worlds of Music

**Course Code:** COM 4105

**Student Engagement Hours:** 120

Lectures: 22.5

Seminar/Tutorials: 22.5

Independent / Guided Learning: 75

**Credits:** 12 UK CATS credits  
6 ECTS credits  
3 US credits

### **Course/Course Description:**

This course aims to introduce students to the study of contemporary non-western popular music. This music, often derived from traditional 'folk' forms and originating in cities such as Kingston, Havana, Sao Paulo or Kinshasa, is just as likely to be heard today on the streets and in the clubs of 'global cities' such as London and New York. This course investigates these urban, culturally hybridized forms of popular music as representative manifestations of 21<sup>st</sup> century cultural globalization.

**Prerequisites:** None

### **Aims and Objectives:**

The course aims to:

- Explain various approaches to the study of globalization.
- Consider the strengths and weaknesses of various approaches to the study of cultural globalization.
- Introduce and discuss the history and development of popular music and aspects of popular culture (for example dance, music-related film, animation, etc) in a variety of national and cultural contexts.
- Discuss and develop a critical awareness of the ways in which cultural practices are related to issues of cultural and sub-cultural identities.

- Discuss and develop a critical awareness of the relationships between popular music and broader socio-political process such as decolonization, urbanization, underemployment, racism, sexism and media censorship in a variety of national and cultural contexts.

**Programme Outcomes:**

4A(i); 4A(ii); 4A(iii); 4B(i); 4C(i)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Broad understanding of theoretical frameworks that will enable students to understand cultural processes and products.
- Understand and critically engage with the history and development of popular music in a variety of national and cultural contexts.
- Critically engage with theories of cultural globalization and appreciate their relevance to understanding global popular culture.
- Critically evaluate musical performance in written and verbal form
- Develop a range of general intellectual knowledge and transferable skills such as the ability to understand and evaluate complex arguments; and engage in clear written and verbal communication.

**Indicative Content:**

- Approaches to understanding globalization
- Approaches to understanding cultural globalization
- Creole cultures
- Post-colonialism and musical expression
- Identity, globalization and popular music
- Cultural hybridity
- Urbanization, global cities and musical identity
- Contemporary popular genres in cultural context

**Assessment:**

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

**Teaching Methodology:**

The course will combine formal lectures with interactive discussion. The former will introduce the main arguments related to the debate. The latter will be encouraged through tasks, activities and presentations of musical case studies aiming to link the theoretical arguments with the analysis of cultural processes and products.

**Bibliography:**

See syllabus for complete reading list

