SOUNDSCAPES OF WELLBEING IN POPULAR MUSIC
Winter 2019 Term

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Lecture: Tuesdays 8:30am–11:20am
BSB 121

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Course Description
This course examines the dynamics between music, health and wellbeing, considering the use of music by health sectors, and the places of music in cultural life. Specifically, this course critically examines the many ways in which popular music, through various facets of its production, circulation and consumption, can help create health and wellbeing on both individual and collective levels.

Specifically, attention is paid to popular music's many health and wellbeing applications and contexts; ranging from formal music therapy to everyday listening practices, public health interventions, and political mobilization through activism. Moreover, theoretically attention is paid to the roles of meaning and identity, structure, onflow and affect in how music creates health and wellbeing.

A number of disciplinary perspectives and research fields are drawn upon including sociology, geography, social psychology, musicology, cultural studies, holistic health care research and, on occasion, various health sciences. Moreover, a wide-range of musical styles, genres, artists, songs, and venues are drawn upon as case studies to illuminate the ideas presented during the course.

Course Objectives
By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Define, in multiple ways, key terms, such as “soundscapes,” “wellbeing,” “health,” and “popular music,” as they apply to the study of music and health/wellbeing.
- Analyze and evaluate the current trends at the nexus of wellbeing and music.
- Connect the course material to the everyday use of popular music.
- Value the role of music in the lives of individuals and the broader social context, but also from a global perspective, largely facilitated across time and place by technology.
- Relate with popular musical cultures beyond one’s typical exposure and appreciate the interconnection of history, culture, society, and power that extend beyond singular songs and musical genres.
- Act as a self-directed, autonomous learner, as well as a member of a learning team, in order to effectively explore the course material and formulate ideas for future learning.

Prerequisites
Registration in Level IV of any Honours Health, Aging and Society or Honours Social Psychology program.
Required Materials and Texts
There is no required text or course pack but the following books explore almost all of issues covered in the course and, if purchased, loaned or accessed, would undoubtedly be of great assistance:


Note: All should be available as e-books from the university library. Andrews et al. and Sunderland et al. are also available from the McMaster Library on reserve for this course.

Class Format
This course is made up of weekly seminars that focus on analytical skill development, critical thinking, applied learning, and teamwork. Class discussions and seminars will build on required readings, lectures, and learner presentations. Learners will be expected to be active participants in the seminars and learners will have a variety of ways in which to participate, including large and small-group work, presentations, and mini-assignments. Students are also expected to participate on the course site outside of class meetings as assigned. Please speak to the instructor immediately if you anticipate difficulties completing course work online.

Students are expected to attend all classes and to be prepared for class. This includes arriving on time and striving to comprehend reading assignments, as well as completing written assignments in a timely manner. Class participation grades in this course will be based upon (a) the quality of the discussion each week; (b) observed mastery of the required readings assigned each week; (c) observed ability to engage other students in discussion relevant to the course; (d) consistency of participation in the course. Allowances will be made for differences in personal style.

Students are expected to turn off or place their cell phones on silent during class. If expecting an important call during class time, please request an allowance to keep your phone on. Use of laptops/tablets/phones/etc. should be limited to purposes related to this course only. Computer use in the classroom is intended to facilitate learning in that environment. At the discretion of the instructor, students using a computer for any other purpose may be required to turn the computer off (or asked to leave) for the remainder of the class.
Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Participation – 20% Due Weekly
2. Attendance – 10% Weekly
3. Mid-Term Paper: Applications & Contexts – 20% Due February 17th, 2019 by midnight
4. Final Paper: Genres & Theories – 20% April 8th, 2019 by midnight
5. Journal & Integrative Project – 30% April 14th, 2019 by midnight

Course Evaluation – Details

Participation (20%)
Active engagement is essential for success in this class. Being an actively engaged student does not necessarily mean you must be regularly contributing to large group discussions, but it does imply a commitment to working with others in class (in pairs, small groups, etc.) to develop a community that supports learning and fostering ideas. Active learning also includes individual reflection, reading and preparation, and contributing to a positive classroom environment. Recognizing that students have varying comfort levels with speaking in large groups, a variety of participation activities will be used. A calendar assigning groups for Participation Activities will be developed during the first weeks of the course and posted on Avenue thereafter). If the activity calls for presenting in front of the class, students who are less comfortable may choose to focus on preparing the presentation, rather than deliver the oral material. Group work is graded individually. Creative approaches are highly encouraged.

Attendance (10%)
As measured by physical presence in class.

Mid-Term Paper: Applications & Contexts (20%), due February 17th, 2019 by midnight
Select a particular application or context where music impacts on health and wellbeing, as covered in the first half of the course, and write an essay reviewing the facets and processes involved. The paper should be no more than 6-8 pages long (excluding references), typed and double spaced.

Final Paper: Genres & Theories (20%), due April 8th, 2019 by midnight
Select a particular musical style/genre or artist or performance or album/song and describe critically its connections to health and wellbeing (these do not necessarily have to be the particular genres covered in the course). Use theoretical concepts or ideas covered in the second half of the course (or others of their choice with instructor approval) to interpret the processes involved. The paper should be no more than 6-8 pages long (excluding references), typed and double spaced.
Journal & Integrative Project: (30%), due April 14th, 2019 by midnight

Journaling is a process by which learners actively and reflectively connect the knowledge, skills, and beliefs introduced in the course to their own specific situations and life experiences. Throughout the course, please keep a weekly learning journal in which you explore your own experience of popular music and relate that experience to that week's topic as it relates to the course. Your journal is yours to develop in any way that assists you to construct meaning from your learning experience and course materials. Your journal is a place for you to identify questions you have, issues with which you are struggling, and thoughts and feelings you are experiencing throughout the course. Below are some suggested entry starters (adapted from Fenwick & Parsons, 2000):

- A central point to remember here is…
- An example from my own experience of one of the key points here is…
- Some questions raised for me are…
- A quotation that is important for me is… because…

Be sure to include a date for each entry. This will assist you in your final reflection at the end of the course and also act as a place marker in time during your learning.

You may also choose to create a visual or auditory entry that symbolizes your thoughts. In that case, provide a short description of what you are symbolizing and why. You are encouraged to explore the use of colour, metaphor, music (sound/lyrics), pertinent quotations, and other arts-informed artifacts to represent your thoughts and feelings as you work your way through the course.

Following the last session, you will reflect upon the content within your journal and the learning in which you engaged during the course with a final reflection ("Integrative Project") wherein you will:

1) synthesize your key insights
2) identify key themes and issues raised during the course
3) comment on challenges and successes of your participation in this course, and your plans for further inquiry into the topic of wellbeing in popular music.

For your final Integrative Project, you can utilize a narrative and/or arts-based approach consisting of your own unique work (not borrowing from someone else). Examples include: poems, novellas, songs, dances, photos, maps, electronic media, and/or other creative expressions of knowledge. I am looking for an organic intellectual process here, but do have 4-5 pages dedicated to your Integrative Project, with 2-3 providing an explanation of what you are doing in your narrative and/or arts-based approach. These can come before, after, or broken in between pieces – your choice.
Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

***Given the nature of the content of this course, there may be examples of popular music presented in this class that some people may find contains content that may be offensive or songs that contain explicit lyrics. Learners are reminded to exercise upmost respect and communicate to the instructor should they feel uncomfortable with these musical examples.***

**Weeks 1-7 Applications & Contexts**

**Week 1**

**January 8th – Introduction to the Course** What do we mean by popular music, health and wellbeing and their interrelationships, and what disciplines* and fields of research are involved in understanding and articulating these interrelationships? Is music a social determinant of health and what its links to social justice and health equity?

* Psychology / Social Psychology, Sociology, Cultural Studies, Medicine, Education, Neuroscience, Musicology / Ethnomusicology, etc.

**Required Reading:**
- Chapter one ‘Introduction’ in Andrews et al. (2014)
- MacDonald, R. A. R. (2013). Music, health, and well-being: A review. *International Journal of Qualitative Studies on Health and Well-Being*, 8, 10.3402/qhw.v8i0.20635. [http://doi.org/10.3402/qhw.v8i0.20635](http://doi.org/10.3402/qhw.v8i0.20635)

**Plus choose one (1) of the following:**
- Chapter one, two OR three in section one in MacDonald et al. (2012)
- Chapter one or three in Sunderland et al. (2017)

**Notes:**
1) Pre-Learning Assignment Due January 8th in class.
2) Participation “discipline exercise” Assigned
3) Assigning Participation Activity Calendar & Genres Part 1

**Week 2**

**January 15th – Music as therapy.** How is popular music utilized in both conventional and non-conventional health care practice? What are the main uses, principles and procedures involved, what debates surround its effectiveness, regulation, funding and access?

**Guest speaker:** 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Rachael Finnerty, RP MTA MMT MA Registered Psychotherapist, Music Therapist Accredited Founder & Director of Education OMTA

[www.musictherapyacademy.com](http://www.musictherapyacademy.com)
Required Readings (3 in total):

- Chapter ten in Andrews et al. (2014)

Plus choose one (1) of the following:

- Or another review of the literature on music therapy in a population of your choice.

Plus choose one (1) of the following:

- Chapter 4, 8, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, or 20 in MacDonald et al. (2012)
- Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 13 in Sunderland et al. (2017)

Optional Readings:


Notes:

1) Participation “discipline exercise” conclusion.
2) Final Assignment of Participation Activity Calendar & Genres Part 1.

Week 3

January 22nd – Music in everyday life. How is music purposefully deployed and consciously experienced in everyday contexts (such as at work, while shopping, or at the gym) to assist health and wellbeing (for example in us remembering,
letting go, seeking inspiration and hope)? Otherwise how can it act on a less-than-fully conscious level as a backdrop to our lives, yet still subtly assist our health and wellbeing?

**Required Readings:**
- Chapters seven and eleven in Andrews et al. (2014)

**Plus choose one (1) of the following:**
- Any chapter in section five in MacDonald et al. (2012)
- Chapter two in Andrews et al. (2014)

**Optional Readings:**

**Notes:** Group 1 will be responsible for summarizing the required readings; Group 2 will be responsible for presenting on one supplemental reading* on music in daily life per group member (5 group members = 5 readings in total); Group 3 will present a media example of music in every-day life and provide an analysis; and Group 4 will present Genre or Culture of choice. *Supplemental readings may be from the list of optional readings, or the learner may choose another reading.
Week 4

January 29th – Music in public health & health promotion. As a social and cultural ‘determinant’, how can music be bad and good for health and wellbeing? In terms of the former, debates here range from the negative health impacts of musical cultures ranging from musical ‘miserableism’ to issues around drug use and violence. In terms of the latter, debates include using particular musical genres (such as Hip Hop) to deliver health messages and programs.

Required Readings:
Choose one (1) of the following:

Plus choose one (1) of the following:
• Any chapter in section two or chapter 14 or 24 or 25 in MacDonald et al. (2012)
• Chapters five and thirteen in Andrews et al. (2014)

Plus choose one (1) of the following:
• Chapter 2, 7, 9, 10, and 11 in Suderland et al. (2017)

Optional Readings:

Notes: Group 2 will be responsible for summarizing the required readings; Group 3 will be responsible for presenting on one supplemental reading* on music in daily life per group member (5 group members = 5 readings in total); Group 4 will
present a media example of music in every-day life and provide an analysis; and Group 1 will present Genre or Culture of choice. *Supplemental readings may be from the list of optional readings, or the learner may choose another reading.

Week 5

February 5th – Music in politics, activism, social justice, and health equity.

How is music worked politically for population health and wellbeing? Approaches reviewed here range from macro-scale ‘celebrity diplomacy’ and associated mega-events focused at the developing world, to more modest local initiatives and causes. What are the arguments for and against musicians and their audiences acting on health issues?

Required Readings:

- Chapter 8 & 14 in Sunderland et al. (2017)

Optional Readings:

- Chapters 16 & 18 in Andrews et al. (2014)
- Any chapter in Sunderland et al. (2017) on social justice & health equity that has not yet been discussed in class.

Notes: Group 3 will be responsible for summarizing the required readings; Group 4 will be responsible for presenting on one supplemental reading* on music in daily life per group member (5 group members = 5 readings in total); Group 1 will present a media example of music in every-day life and provide an analysis; and
Group 2 will present Genre or Culture of choice. *Supplemental readings may be from the list of optional readings, or the learner may choose another reading.

**Week 6**  
**February 12th – Places: Music in nature & in concert.** How does place figure in the relationship between music and health/wellbeing and in the creation of musical soundscapes? What are the processes involved at various scales including in regions, neighborhoods, festivals, stadiums, arenas, concert halls, pubs, bedrooms, imagined visualized places and cyberspaces?

**Required Readings:**
- Learners will work in pairs to choose at least two readings on music and a specific place (nature, soundscapes, regions, etc. as listed above). Each pair will discuss their readings in class. Media examples are highly encouraged. Space will be provided on Avenue to ensure that there is no duplication.

**Optional Readings:**
- Chapters, one, eight and fourteen in Andrews et al. (2014)

**Notes:** Mid-term Learning Questionnaire to be completed in class  
Assigning Participation Activity Calendar & Genres Part 2  
*Mid-Term Paper Due February 17th by midnight*

**Week 7**  
**February 19th – Mid-term Recess**

**Week 8-13 Theories and Concepts**

**Week 8**  
**February 26th – Meaning and identity: Embodiment & corporeality in/of music.** How do the meanings and identities attached to music and articulated by music – and related processes (such as social construction) and experiences (such as emotion) - play a role in the way music works for health and wellbeing on individual and collective levels?

**Required Readings:**

OR

AND

• Chapter 9 in Andrews et al. (2014)

**Optional Readings:**

• Bennett, A. (2000). *Popular music and youth culture: music, identity and place.* Macmillan Press Ltd. (any chapter)
• Chapter fifteen or seventeen in Andrews et al. (2014)

**Notes:** Group 4 will be responsible for summarizing the required readings; Group 1 will be responsible for presenting on one supplemental reading* on music in daily life per group member (5 group members = 5 readings in total); Group 2 will present a media example of music in every-day life and provide an analysis; and Group 3 will present Genre or Culture of choice. *Supplemental readings may be from the list of optional readings, or the learner may choose another reading.

**Week 9**

**March 5th – Structure and onflow.** How does the structure and onflow of popular music, and the specific techniques involved in its production, lead to physical and emotional responses in listeners? For example, music being uplifting, saddening or calming?

**Required Readings:** (choose 3)


**Optional Readings:**
• Chapters two and twelve in Andrews et al. (2014)

**Notes:** Group 1 will be responsible for summarizing the required readings; Group 2 will be responsible for presenting on one supplemental reading* on music in daily life per group member (5 group members = 5 readings in total); Group 3 will present a media example of music in every-day life and provide an analysis; and Group 4 will present Genre or Culture of choice. *Supplemental readings may be from the list of optional readings, or the learner may choose another reading.*

**Week 10**

**March 12th – Affect.** How does music help create a collective interpersonal energy between people experiencing it; a ‘vibe’ that is less-than-fully consciously experienced yet is atmospheric, infectious, uplifting and potentially transformational?

**Required Readings:**

**Optional Readings:**


Chapters four, eleven and twelve in Andrews et al. (2014)

**Notes**: Group 2 will be responsible for summarizing the required readings; Group 3 will be responsible for presenting on one supplemental reading* on music in daily life per group member (5 group members = 5 readings in total); Group 4 will present a media example of music in every-day life and provide an analysis; and Group 1 will present Genre or Culture of choice. *Supplemental readings may be from the list of optional readings, or the learner may choose another reading.*

**Week 11**

**March 19th – Music and globalism.** How has globalism affected the experience of music making and listening to popular music? In what ways is the mixing of cultures of music and music genres symbolic of globalism?

**Required Readings:**


- Chapter 12 in Sunderland et al. (2017)

**Notes**: Group 3 will be responsible for summarizing the required readings; Group 4 will be responsible for presenting on one supplemental reading* on music in daily life per group member (5 group members = 5 readings in total); Group 1 will present a media example of music in every-day life and provide an analysis; and Group 2 will present Genre or Culture of choice. *Supplemental readings may be from the list of optional readings, or the learner may choose another reading.*
Week 12

**March 26th – Music, gender & sexuality** Extending the conversation on music, embodiment, and identify, this week we will explore music, gender, and queer theory and the resultant implications on wellbeing.

**Required Readings:**
*Please note – some explicit language in Avery et al. (2017) and Kyrölä (2017).*

**Optional Readings:**

**Notes:** Group 4 will be responsible for summarizing the required readings; Group 1 will be responsible for presenting on one supplemental reading* on music in daily life per group member (5 group members = 5 readings in total); Group 2 will present a media example of music in every-day life and provide an analysis; and Group 3 will present Genre or Culture of choice. *Supplemental readings may be from the list of optional readings, or the learner may choose another reading.*

Week 13

**April 2nd – Culture Day.** Extending the conversation on music and globalism, this week we will explore popular music, and its relation to health and wellbeing, from various cultures (Indigenous, non-Western, and otherwise outside of mainstream North American culture).

**Required Readings:**
- Learners will work in pairs to choose at least two readings on and a media example (or examples) on a culture of their choosing. Each pair will discuss their readings in class, using media examples for analysis. Space
will be provided on Avenue to ensure that there is no duplication of readings (duplication of cultures is acceptable if looking at a different music genre from that culture).

Notes: **Final Paper Due April 8th, 2019 by midnight**

**Week 14**  
**April 9th – Course wrap-up.** In this class, we will revisit the topics discussed throughout the term and return to the course objectives.

**Required Readings:**  
- None – However, please be prepared to discuss the Journal assignment and present an example from your Journal assignment portfolio.

Notes: **Journal/Integrative Project Due April 14th, 2019 by midnight.**

**Course Policies**

**Submission of Assignments**  
Assignments are to be submitted electronically, via Avenue, on or before the due date. See Rubrics for specific assignment details. The instructor will strive to have all assignments graded within 1-2 weeks of submission.

**Grades**  
Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

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**Late Assignments**  
Ten percent (10%) will be deducted from late assignments for each day late. No assignments will be accepted after one week late without consultation with the instructor.
Absences, Missed Work, Illness
When you find yourself unable to meet in-course or online requirements due to illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor via e-mail. Where possible, this should be done in advance of the missed work or event, but otherwise, just as soon as possible after the due date, and certainly no longer than one week later. A reason for the absence or missed work does not need to be shared with the instructor; however, the learner will be expected to work with the instructor to construct a specific plan of action to make up any missed work.

Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work
McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF)
In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

Grade Review
All course work will be graded carefully. On occasion, students may disagree with the mark they receive. If this occurs, I would be happy to review the mark, provided the request is serious and the following procedure is followed:

- Write a one-page statement detailing why you believe a marking error was made. Use the grade rubric(s) to support your argument, citing specific examples from your paper as to why you believe you satisfied the criteria better than your grade reflected.
- The statement should be submitted, along with the marked assignment, to me for review. You may submit the request for a re-mark no sooner than 48-hours after the assignment was returned and no later than one-week after feedback was returned. I will review your mark and get back to you with written feedback.

*Please note that there is a possibility that when a mark is reviewed, the new mark may be lower than the original.

Avenue to Learn
In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Authenticity / Plagiarism Detection
In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. Students will be expected to submit their
work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via Avenue to Learn (A2L) plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish to submit their work through A2L and/or Turnitin.com must still submit an electronic and/or hardcopy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com or A2L. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

**Course Modification**

The instructor reserves the right to modify elements of the course during the term. If any modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

**University Policies**

**Academic Integrity Statement**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which credit has been obtained.
- Improper collaboration in group work.
- Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.
Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities
Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University’s Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.

Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)
Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students requiring a RISO accommodation should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar’s Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy
Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Extreme Circumstances
The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.