

Module Specification

Module Title: Contextual Studies 3: Politics and Art

Module code:	HBASHR086	NQF level:	6
Credit value:	20	Semester of study:	1 & 2
Module type:	Optional	Pre-requisites:	None
Available to:	BA (Hons) Music (Classical/Film Music/Folk/Jazz/Popular/Production/Songwriting/Business)		

Module overview

Finding new understanding for an artists' expression in composition and performance is an important aspect for a creative musical career. This module gives opportunities for students to further develop their understanding of the relationship of the arts and politics and the effects of both on each other and bring new ideas into their practice by examining and developing cross-discipline music that is socially aware.

Students will be introduced to a range of artists and arts organisations whose output has been informed or affected by political motivation or influence. Musical areas of focus will include narrative as a compositional device, structure, modality, as well as textural, timbral and non-musical compositional devices (such as Foley artistry, spoken word etc.) considerations. Attention will be paid to artists who have combined multiple influences in their work. Practice and research will be balanced as new musical concepts, techniques, styles and presentation ideas will be incorporated into the students' own work to form devised, informed music that has a social agenda. In addition, sessions will highlight other art forms where the role of politics and art has had a significant effect.

Aims

The module aims to:

1. Bring students together from different pathways/musical backgrounds, to develop their awareness of political activism in the arts
2. Explore ways of introducing ideas and research-based knowledge from different communities and genres to their own practice.
3. Introduce students to a range of case studies and examples that may be applied to their own work via practical research.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Analyse the relationship between art and politics, exploring the role of art in communities and political movements
2. Examine policy decisions and social change brought about through the evolving relationships between industry, government(s), artists, arts organisations and media including the effect on and of public broadcasts
3. Create original music that is informed through research and analysis and through cross-genre collaboration
4. Present devised music in an appropriate format (e.g. performance, production; documentation of live performance).

Learning and teaching methods

In weekly seminars/workshops, students will analyse music and other art forms from a range of disciplines in order to facilitate discussion of stylistic and technical aspects of politically active art. Stylistically, there are no limitations, and students will be encouraged to consider a wide range of aesthetic approaches.

The module will engage students with seminal works and practitioners who are well known for creating challenging, observational and socially aware art, taking inspiration from and combining influences of politics, global movements and highlighting the role of art in political change.

Weekly sessions will consist of 45 minutes of seminar, during which artists, concepts and techniques are discussed, followed by bi-weekly 90 minutes of workshop activity during which ideas are contextualised and explored practically in groups/bands.

Contact hours and directed study (over semesters 1 and 2)

Delivery type	Student hours
Indicative hours for learning and teaching activities	170
Indicative hours of directed study	30
Total hours (100hrs per 10 credits)	200

Opportunities for formative feedback

Students will undertake a mid-year platform in the form of presentations in order to receive formative feedback on their approach to collaboration.

Assessment Method

Description of assessment	Length/Duration	Weighting	Module LOs addressed
Essay	2000 words	40%	1, 2
Group Performance Presentation	15 minutes	60%	3, 4

Re-Assessment Method

Description of assessment	Length/Duration	Weighting	Module LOs addressed
Essay	2000 words	40%	1, 2
MyPortfolio submission of an Individual Performance Presentation	10 minutes	60%	3, 4

Reading List available online