

**MUS 536, Area Studies in Ethnomusicology – Fieldwork on the Radio:
Ethnomusicology and the Study of US Popular Music
Instructor: Kevin Holt | Thursday, 9:40am – 12:20pm**

Ethnomusicology as a field is historically rooted in the sociomusical exploration of the (non-Western) other. As such, the foundational theories, methodologies, and analytical tools of ethnomusicology were crafted around the search for “traditional”, “pure”, and “unmediated” musical styles. Contemporary ethnomusicology is no longer defined by its subject matter, but rather by its conflation of musicological and sociocultural theory in unpacking the ways that people relate to/through music and sound. This shift coincided with ethnomusicological research that centers popular music/culture which, by definition, cannot be “traditional”, “pure”, or “unmediated.” This course is a survey of ethnomusicological work on US popular music in which students will interrogate the ways that popular music/culture studies intersects with and transforms ethnomusicology. While all assigned texts fall under the umbrellas of ethnomusicology and popular music studies, students will also engage with critical race studies, feminist studies, queer theory, sociology, anthropology, and technocultural studies.

Coursework includes weekly reading assignments, weekly informal writing on Brightspace, in-class presentations, and a final project based in independent research.

This course is suitable for all graduate students. For MM and DMA students, this course fulfills the Elective Group 1 requirement. For students in the MA or PhD track in Critical Music Studies, it fulfills the Elective Group 1 requirement.

3 credits