SPECIAL TOPICS: ANALYSIS OF POPULAR MUSIC

MUSI 4397, section 21675
MUSI 6394, section 21674

Dr. Tim Koozin

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Course Description: How can listening, transcription, and analysis enrich our understanding of jazz and popular music? We will study works from jazz and popular repertoires from perspectives of music theory, performer interaction, and meaning in social/historical context. Students will study assigned readings, prepare transcriptions “by ear” for analysis, and complete three research/analysis papers. Class meetings will take the form of a seminar, without formal lectures. Preparation and readiness to contribute in each class discussion is the student’s responsibility.

Required readings and listening assignments are available through UH e-Reserve.

Grading and Policies

Class participation / short assignments  25%
Papers (3 x 25%)  75%

Last day to drop without a grade: February 2.  Last day to drop or withdraw: April 5

UH Policies on Academic Honesty can be found online at:
http://www.uh.edu/provost/policies/uhhonesty_policy.html

Students with disabilities are asked to bring to the instructor’s attention any special accommodations they may require.

Selected Topics and Readings

Many pieces are discussed in the readings. Listen to any works you are less familiar with.

I. Popular music, gender, and meaning:

II. Harmony and Form in Rock


III. Jazz Studies


IV. Performer Interaction and the Groove


V. Country Music


VI. Popular Music in Film