



# SEX, RACE & ROCK

COMING IN 2012



## USSC2604 Sex, Race & Rock in the USA

New in Semester 2, 2012, this innovative and exciting unit will explore the cultural history and intersections of sexuality, race and rock music in the United States from Elvis to Lady Gaga. Influenced by black and working-class cultures, and with sexuality embedded in its form and practice, rock music challenged and transformed existing norms of family, sex and gender. Through subjects including black women, glam rock, and disco, students will learn that rock music, far from being frivolous, provided a realm for rebellion, freedom, community and profit.

Through this unit, you will develop a body of knowledge about the cultural history of American rock music, both mainstream and alternative, with a focus on race, gender and sexuality in the postwar decades. By examining the paradoxes of rock music's freedom and commercial success, you will gain a unique insight into the complexities, contradictions and possibilities of American culture and its global impact. You will also be better equipped to contextualise contemporary popular music and its historical roots.

Through the development of a research question and paper you will gain a greater understanding of the methods and evidence used to study cultural history at a university level, particularly through consideration of the use of music as a source of evidence. This will also enhance your ability to formulate research questions and construct cogent, evidence-based arguments.

The unit will be highly interactive, encouraging debate on key issues, group presentations and scholarly writing.

### Learning Outcomes

At the end of this unit of study students will have the ability to:

- Understand sexuality and race in the cultural history of American rock and its impact on cultural norms in and outside the US
- Critically analyse popular cultural forms in scholarly ways
- Express conceptually difficult ideas and independent critical thinking in oral and written forms
- Pose research questions and access and synthesise diverse sources to build and defend a reasoned position in response to those questions
- Identify values and beliefs inherent in a culture superficially similar but in other ways unlike their own
- Appreciate the role of reasoning and creativity in communication

The course will be cross-listed with American Studies, Gender & Cultural Studies, History, and Music so will count towards any of those majors.

Prerequisites:  
12 junior level credit points

Format:  
2 x 1 hr lecture and 1 x 1 hr tutorial each week

For more information visit:  
[ussc.edu.au/study/undergraduate#ussc2604](http://ussc.edu.au/study/undergraduate#ussc2604)



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