

**Title of lecture: MPhil – Popular Music in Historical Perspective****Response from: J. Griffith Rollefson (13 June 2014)**

I am very happy with the positive responses on the Student Lecture Questionnaires. Judging from the fact that I only received “5 / Excellent” marks, I am satisfied that the masters students thought the course was a valuable one. The positive written comments also helped me get a sense that I fostered a supportive and tailored seminar experience.

I also appreciated the couple of suggestions to make the course even stronger. First, the idea that I could prioritise the readings “so if time doesn’t allow we could focus on one and be able to contribute” is an easy one to implement, although I don't want to suggest that students should even read only one article. I'll think about how to implement this suggestion properly.

The other idea was to hold meetings weekly rather than fortnightly. This I will absolutely implement as the meetings lacked the momentum that we might have gotten from weekly seminars. A colleague recommended this idea before I began, and my experiment with spreading it out, I think worked fine, but I would do it differently next time—perhaps including three weekly meetings, one week off and then a final research presentation meeting.

As popular music studies will only increase in centrality to the degree in years to come (as it becomes more central in the musicological disciplines) we might think about offering a more robust, full seminar, version of the course as a degree option. Further, we might recommend PhD candidates audit the course if they are working on relevant topics or would benefit from the research methodologies and literatures. Such a move would undergird their work and enliven seminar discussions.

In all, I was very happy with the course and the research papers that came out of it.