

## Course Outline: Introduction to Cultural Studies

### DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

*Note for students: This short course outline is provided for planning purposes only. Course information is tentative and subject to change; the final course syllabus will be available by the first day of classes.*

### Course Code

EN 4000 3.0A (F): Introduction to Cultural Studies

### Course Description

This course offers an introduction to cultural studies through the new field of sound studies — the study of how sound shapes human experience, from literature and music to politics, spirituality, and everyday life. We will study key texts in the field alongside literary works, recordings, and films, exploring the ways music, sound, and vibration form the fabric of our world.

The course develops both critical skills and theoretical frameworks. On the practical side, you will learn how to analyze a music video and how to write a record or concert review. Conceptually, we will move across soundscapes and modes of listening; the Black radical tradition and sound; decolonial and queer approaches to sound studies; subculture, mass culture, and counterculture in the digital era; the relation of sound and vibration to philosophy; and spirituality, trauma and healing in music and sound.

Topics will include: emergent queer and trans raving scenes, ayahuasca shamanism and the relationship between psychedelics and sound, and the impact of AI on music and sonic culture. We will read sound-saturated literary works: Clarice Lispector's *Água Viva*, Virginia Woolf's *The Waves*, Tanya Tagaq's *Split Tooth*, McKenzie Wark's *Raving*, and Hanif Abdurraqib's *Go Ahead in the Rain: Notes to A Tribe Called Quest*.

### Course Delivery

Delivery Mode: In person seminar

EN 4000 is a single semester in person seminar that meets once a week for 3 hours. Assignments include brief individual and group in class presentations, take home writing assignments and an in person end of semester exam.

## Course Materials

Hanif Abdurraqib, *Go Ahead In The Rain: Notes To A Tribe Called Quest*  
Daphne Brooks, *Liner Notes for the Revolution: The Intellectual Life of Black Feminist Sound.*  
Martin Daughtry, *Listening to War: Sound, Music, Trauma, and Survival in Wartime Iraq*  
Hideo Furokawa, *Horses Horses, In the end the light remains pure*  
Clarice Lispector, *Agua Viva*  
Jonathan Sterne, ed. *The Sound Studies Reader*  
Tanya Tagaq, *Split Tooth*  
McKenzie Wark, *Raving*  
Virginia Woolf, *The Waves*

## Tentative Grade Breakdown and Deadlines

Assessment	Weight	Mode	Tentative Deadline
Group/ individual presentations	15 + 20%	In person	during semester
1500 word record review	30%	Online	mid semester
End of semester exam	20%	In person	last class
Participation	15%	In Person	whole semester
	100%		

<b>Category:</b>	N/A
<b>Historical Requirement:</b>	N/A
<b>Open To:</b>	Yr 3, 4 (EN, ENPR, CRWR students only)