UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
Introduction to the Study of Popular Music

Academic Year 2025/2026

1. Organic Unit

Faculty of Architecture and Arts

2. Course

JAZZ AND MODERN MUSIC

3. Cycle

1st

4. Course Unit

Introduction to the Study of Popular Music (C6223)

5. Scientific Area

6. Curricular Year

2nd

7. Type of Curricular Unit / Semester

2nd Semester

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8. Class type and workload (work time)

Theoretical classes:	
Practical classes:	
Theoretical-Practical Classes	30,00
Tutorial Guidance:	

9. ECTS Credits

3,00

10. Scientific Area Coordinator

11. Regent

Prof. Doutora JOANA GUERREIRO BORGES MACHADO

12. Assistants

13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

14. General Objectives

This class aims to explain and historically (chronologically) analyze the evolution of so-called popular or "mainstream" music, to which Jazz has had an undeniable contribution.

15. Specific Objectives

1. Ability to identify and analyze "styles" and their respective characteristics.
2. Sociocultural and chronological framing of styles and the evolution of music.
3. Know and identify the main "agents" (artists) and their contributions to the definition of styles.
4. Contextualize and discuss musical phenomena, agents and styles, with a special focus on the case of black American music and its impact on the history of popular music as we know it.

16. Skills to be acquired

1. Ability to identify, research and analyse musical styles, their context and any relevant aspects in a theoretical manner (critical review).
2. Listen to specific musical pieces/artists with commentary.
3. Articulate ideas, concepts and be able to discuss styles or artists.
4. Introduction to scientific research.
5. Write and submit critical reviews; give oral presentations with audio illustration.
6. Know a wide range of musical styles and artists.

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17. Teaching Methodology

In-person theoretical and practical classes.
Explanation/teaching using audio-visual media and bibliographical references.

18. Course Unit Program

1. Identify and conceptualize "Popular Music".
2. Music that derives from Western classical music, jazz, folklore and local sub-cultures.
3. The music industry and the concept of "mainstream".
4. Music and technological evolution. Music production, audio techniques, industrialization and communication of music. Concept of "mass music".
5. Geography and identity. Sociological, ethnic and gender context.
6. Musical communities.
7. Selection of popular music phenomena to carry out "case studies".

19. Assessment Methods

Completion of 1 (personal) assignment and 1 group assignment.
Attendance and participation in classes.

20. Didactic Resources

Recommended bibliography.
Scientific articles.
Films and documentaries.
Specific audios.
Video clips.

21. Sustainability Objectives

All class support will be virtual.
To illustrate oral presentations of their work, students will be able to use models and other 3D graphic materials.

22. Keywords

Popular Music
Pop
Mainstream
Music Industry
BAM

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23. Main Bibliography

Author(s):	Winterson, Julia; Nickol, Peter et. AL		
Title:	Pop Music - The Text Book		
Edition:	1st	Year:	2013
Local:	London, UK		
Publisher:	Faber Music		

Author(s):	Powell, Richard J.		
Title:	Black Art and Culture in the Twentieth Century		
Edition:	1st	Year:	1997
Local:	London, UK		
Publisher:	Thames & Hudson Ltd		

Author(s):	Ross, Alex		
Title:	Listen to This		
Edition:	1st	Year:	2011
Local:	NYC & London		
Publisher:	HarperCollins Publishers		

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s):	Levitin, Daniel		
Title:	This is your brain on Music: Understanding a Human Obsession		
Edition:	1st	Year:	2019
Local:	London, UK		
Publisher:	Penguin Books Ltd		

Author(s):	Griffiths, Paul		
Title:	Modern Music and After: Directions Since 1945		
Edition:	1st	Year:	1995
Local:	Leicester, UK		
Publisher:	Clarendon Books		

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Ficha técnica MIP / MIP Datasheet	
Título / Title	Course Unit Program 'INTRODUÇÃO AO ESTUDO DA MÚSICA POPULAR': Academic Year 2025/2026
Autor / Author	Prof. Doutora JOANA GUERREIRO BORGES MACHADO
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