Bruce Curtis  
LA D791  
Office Hours: Monday, 10:15-11:15 or by appointment  
Email: bruce.curtis@carleton.ca  
Phone Number: x2596  
Course meets: Monday, 11:35-2:25

Course Description and Objectives:  
This seminar draws on multi-disciplinary perspectives to examine empirical, conceptual, and methodological issues surrounding the emergence, development and diffusion of African American blues and gospel music. Participants can expect to learn a great deal about the history and politics of music-making in segregated America while we trouble foundational concepts of class, race, gender, sexualities, and the rough/respectable, sacred/profane distinctions. We will examine the work of ethnographers and record companies in ‘making up the blues’. We will consider modes of listening and hearing. A collaborative working session will grapple with music-making and the ‘sex trade.’

Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:  
Participation: 30% of course grade.  
Seminar presentation(s): overview of topic and stimulation of discussion.  
Brief weekly writing assignment: minimally, 3 critical questions/issues/comments on readings. [Maximally, you may wish to blog].  
Ongoing participation in discussion.

Paper Proposal: 10%  Due March 9. Feedback from and discussion with the instructor.

Final Assignment: 60%  Due 20 April  
This assignment must contain a written component, but students may wish to consider the use of additional media. Topic to be chosen in consultation with the instructor.

Course Materials  
Availability: Course materials are available in digital format from Macodrum Library or, on rare occasions, from Library Reserves. Material on Suggested Playlists is available online, typically via YouTube.

Reading List & Optional Playlists  
6 January  
Course Overview: “Cakewalking Babies From Home”
No Required Reading.


13 January* Contemporary Sociological Approaches*


Listen: TBA

20 January *“Black” Music?*


Listen: Lee Dorsey “Ya-Ya”

27 January *White Ethnographers Find “the Folk” and “Make Up” the Blues*


3 February *Musical Training Grounds: Vaudeville and Black Face Minstrelsy (Then and Now)*


10 February *Spirituals, the ‘Sorrow Songs,’ Racial Equality and ‘Respectable’ Music*


Listen: A selection of spirituals. Fisk Jubilee Singers, “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” etc.

17 February *Reading Week*

24 February *The Technology and Phenomenology of Sound Recordings and the Two Blues ‘Crazes’*


2 March *Religious Enthusiasm, Moral Regulation and the Phenomenal Success of Gospel Recordings*


9 March **Boundary Crossings, Satires, and the Common Music of Gospel and Blues**


16 March **“Not the Lone Male Troubadour”: Blues Queens, Sexuality, Prowess, Power, Performance**


23 March **Collaborative Work Session**
Ribaldry, Lasciviousness, Pleasure Commerce (the ‘Sex Trade’): Rough Culture and Celebrations of ‘the Lower Bodily Substance’.

This is an exploratory session. Recorded blues and jazz contain a surprisingly large number of songs that deal in whole or in part with the so-called ‘sex trade.’ Some of these, such as “Love for Sale”, recorded by dozens of singers, from the jazz divas of the 1940s and 1950s (Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, etc.) to kd lang in the 2010, are in the mainstream. ‘Race record’ catalogues contained many more, most of them now unknown. For race record buyers, they are only lightly coded. A few were translated to the white swing and pop mainstream: Joe McCoy’s “Weedsmoker’s Dream” was re-written by him as “Why Don’t You Do Right?,” produced a minor hit for Lil Green, but was a million-selling cover by a young Peggy Lee in 1942. It is a jazz classic. A few others have been popularized in the blues-roots and blues-revival movements: Maria Muldaur covering Lucille Bogan’s “Tricks Ain’t Walkin’ No More”, for instance. Most of this discography is unknown.

We’ll come at this body of music as collaborative work project.


30 March Carnival and the Disruption of Categories: Blackface, Red face, White face


6 April Conclusion (Optional)

Watch: "Rumble: the Indians who rocked the world."
Additional Information

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar Regulations, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>57-59</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>53-56</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>50-52</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 50</td>
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<tr>
<td>WDN</td>
<td>Withdrawn from the course</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEF</td>
<td>Deferred</td>
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Academic Regulations, Accommodations, Plagiarism, Etc.

University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university’s website, here: https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**
The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at **613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca** for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your *Letter of Accommodation* at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*).

*The deadline for contacting the Paul Menton Centre regarding accommodation for final exams for the **Winter 2020** exam period is **March 13, 2020**.

**For Religious Obligations:**

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](http://www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

**For Pregnancy:**

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](http://www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)
For Survivors of Sexual Violence
As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: www.carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities
Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is the passing off of someone else's work as your own and is a serious academic offence. For the details of what constitutes plagiarism, the potential penalties and the procedures refer to the section on Instructional Offences in the Undergraduate Calendar. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the Carleton University Student Academic Integrity Policy (See https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/). The Policy is strictly enforced and is binding on all students. Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Students who infringe the Policy may be subject to one of several penalties.

What are the Penalties for Plagiarism?
A student found to have plagiarized an assignment may be subject to one of several penalties including but not limited to: a grade of zero, a failure or a reduced grade for the piece of academic work; reduction of final grade in the course; completion of a remediation process; resubmission of academic work; withdrawal from course(s); suspension from a program of study; a letter of reprimand.

What are the Procedures?
All allegations of plagiarism are reported to the faculty of Dean of FASS and Management. Documentation is prepared by instructors and departmental chairs. The Dean writes to the student and the University Ombudsperson about the alleged plagiarism. The Dean reviews the allegation. If it is not resolved at this level then it is referred to a tribunal appointed by the Senate.

Assistance for Students:
Academic and Career Development Services: https://carleton.ca/career/
Writing Services: http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/
Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS): https://carleton.ca/csas/group-support/pass/
Important Information:

- Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).
- Students must always retain a hard copy of all work that is submitted.
- Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.
- Carleton University is committed to protecting the privacy of those who study or work here (currently and formerly). To that end, Carleton’s Privacy Office seeks to encourage the implementation of the privacy provisions of Ontario’s Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) within the university.
- In accordance with FIPPA, please ensure all communication with staff/faculty is via your Carleton email account. To get your Carleton Email you will need to activate your MyCarletonOne account through Carleton Central. Once you have activated your MyCarletonOne account, log into the MyCarleton Portal.
- Please note that you will be able to link your MyCarletonOne account to other non-MyCarletonOne accounts and receive emails from us. However, for us to respond to your emails, we need to see your full name, CU ID, and the email must be written from your valid MyCarletonOne address. Therefore, it would be easier to respond to your inquiries if you would send all email from your connect account. If you do not have or have yet to activate this account, you may wish to do so by visiting https://students.carleton.ca/

Important Dates – Winter 2020

December 30, 2019: Deadline for course outlines to be made available to students registered in winter term courses.


February 17-21, 2020: Winter Break. Classes are suspended.

March 13, 2020: Last day to request formal exam accommodations for April examinations to the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities. Note that it may not be possible to fulfill accommodation requests received after the specified deadlines.

March 24, 2020: Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in winter term or fall/winter courses before the official examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).

April 7, 2020: Winter term ends.

April 7, 2020: Last day of winter term and fall/winter classes.

April 7, 2020: Last day for academic withdrawal from winter term and fall/winter courses.

April 7, 2020: Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be
specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for winter term and fall/winter courses.

Last day for take home examinations to be assigned, with the exception of those conforming to the examinations regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 8-9, 2020</td>
<td>No classes or examinations take place.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 13-25, 2020</td>
<td>Final examinations in winter term and fall/winter courses may be held.</td>
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<td>Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 25, 2020</td>
<td>All take-home examinations are due on this day, with the exception of those</td>
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<td>conforming to the examinations regulations in the Academic Regulations of the</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University section of the Undergraduate Calendar.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Winter term and fall/winter deferred final examinations will be held.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 15-27, 2020</td>
<td>Winter term and fall/winter deferred final examinations will be held.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 18, 2020</td>
<td>Statutory holiday. University closed. No examinations take place.</td>
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