

ANTH5708F|MUSI5200F: Music and Conflict | Course Outline

Class Meeting Time and Place: Mondays | 11:35am – 2:25am

Instructor: Dr. Carolyn M. Ramzy, Associate Professor | **Email:** Carolyn.Ramzy@carleton.ca

Office Hours: On Zoom by appointment

Land acknowledgment

[Carleton University](#) acknowledges the location of its campus on the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin nation. In doing so, Carleton acknowledges it has a responsibility to the Algonquin people and a responsibility to adhere to Algonquin cultural protocols.

This acknowledgement calls us to reflect not only on historical dispossession, but also on how contemporary institutions of higher education, including Canadian universities, remain entangled in structures of settler colonialism, racial capitalism, and militarized violence at home and abroad. In the present moment, this includes our sector's financial, research, and institutional relationships with entities implicated in the ongoing genocide against Palestinians, as well as policies and practices that censor, chill, or punish Palestinian, Arab, Muslim, and allied voices on our campuses.

In this class, we therefore understand Carleton's acknowledgement as a living commitment to Indigenous sovereignty and solidarity that extends beyond Canada's borders, and includes Indigenous peoples everywhere, including in Palestine. Our actions and discussions will continually return to the question: what concrete responsibilities do we bear, individually and collectively, to confront anti-Indigenous and anti-Palestinian racism, resist university complicity in violence and dispossession, and nurture accountable relationships with the peoples on whose lands we learn, teach, and make music?

Brightspace Link: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/453294>

Course Description

Music and Conflict is a graduate seminar that explores the complex roles music plays in shaping, mediating, and intensifying contemporary social, political, and environmental conflicts in our increasingly polarized world. Drawing on interdisciplinary scholarship in governance, power, and agency, the course examines how music operates within popular media as both a tool of empowerment and a mechanism of control. Through a series of thematic and issue-based case studies, students will investigate topics such as the use of music in contexts of war and genocide, "slopaganda" (AI generated propaganda), the soundscapes of anti-oppression and anti-colonial movements, and the influence of neoliberal capitalism on how we listen, feel, and interpret global events. The seminar invites critical engagement with the question: to what extent can music transform power relations, and when does it simply reinforce and bind power to the top?