



## MA The Beatles, Popular Music and Society Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma The Beatles, Popular Music and Society

A unique opportunity to study in the city of Liverpool, home of The Beatles and with access to leading Popular Music academics and Beatles specialists, this MA is the only one of its kind in the UK and the world.

### Programme Overview

This MA will examine the significance of the music of the Beatles in the construction of identities, audiences, ethnicities and industries, and localities; by doing so it will suggest ways to understand popular music as a social practice, focusing attention on issues such as the role of music in the construction of regional identities, concepts of authenticity, aesthetics, meaning, value, performance, and the use of popular music as a discursive evocation of place. Furthermore, in a consideration of popular music as a text, popular music semiotics will also be employed.

This MA, therefore, will be of interest to those working in the fields of popular music studies, cultural studies, social anthropology, politics, gender studies, and musicology, among others. Such a course is an essential addition to the discipline of Popular Music Studies.

The study of the City of Liverpool and its relationship with the Beatles is also overdue. Research questions exist such as how rhetoric surrounding locality quickly establishes itself around Liverpool and the Beatles; how certain local popular music narratives are marginalised or largely ignored (including those involving the Beatles - who it seems are sometimes considered 'too popular' to be studied). While several serious academic texts on popular music provide comprehensive overviews of such popular music complexities, this programme sets out to examine a specific area of study within this broader academic popular music framework.

The central focus of the programme will be an academic understanding of the worlds in which the Beatles emerged and how those worlds were reflected, contested, supported and negated by and through the creativity, presence and pervading status of the Beatles and their music. Students will research, investigate and present subject matter reflecting the above issues. They will interrogate such issues as locality and place, music in every day life, and music tourism in the city, and will historically consider popular music's origins. By doing so, they will create sustainable research for scholars of the future.

### Modules

Currently four taught modules are offered on this programme.

#### **Texts and Contexts: Understanding Popular Music**

This will offer the student an understanding of how Popular Music Studies has expanded and developed to deal with the changing nature of popular music over the past 50 years. This module will also provide students with contextually-related research methods.

#### **Topics in History: Liverpool**

This module will introduce and discuss musical production and consumption within the post WWII era and will discuss the roles of locality, economics, space and place, and other issues specifically relating to Merseyside.

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### **Musicology and the Beatles**

In this module students will take a popular music semiotics approach and will textually analyse a variety of Beatles material.

### **Historical and Critical Approaches**

Students will be invited to study a more ethnographic approach to the Beatles, the various cultural discourses surrounding their music, and the local tourist industry established in Liverpool to capitalise on the group.

The Dissertation module will be introduced to students towards the end of the Topics in History module with a request for student abstracts, the allocation of supervisors, and the agreement of research areas.

The Postgraduate Certificate will be awarded on the successful completion of 60 credits. This will consist of two taught modules

The Postgraduate Diploma will be awarded on the successful completion of 120 credits. This will mean the completion of all modules apart from the Dissertation

### **Location and Facilities**

All teaching for this programme will be delivered mainly at the Cornerstone Campus (which is close to the City Centre and ideally situated for access to public transport). It has its own gallery, the Cornerstone Gallery, with a busy exhibition programme. There will therefore be an opportunity for on-site learning and involvement with the Gallery.

The Cornerstone is just starting to undergo the final phase of its redevelopment which is scheduled for completion in November 2009. The new three-storey Centre located on Shaw Street will boast state-of-the-art facilities including improved music facilities, a Performance Hall with tiered seating for 300+ capacity, a library, an exhibition gallery, and extensive facilities for business incubation and a selection of teaching rooms extended across three floors.

### **Research Environment**

The Course Director, Dr Michael Brocken is a highly qualified Popular Music Studies specialist – one of the first in the world to receive a doctorate in Popular Music Studies. He is research-led and research-active and possesses an appropriate level of subject expertise, as well as a range of publications, to under-pin the teaching of the course. The programme team are also either highly qualified or pursuing the highest qualifications in their chosen areas.

### **Fees**

Home and EU	£3445
International	£6800

All Liverpool Hope graduates are entitled to a 20% discount off tuition fees. There are a range of scholarships available to international students. For more information, please go to <http://www.hope.ac.uk/international/international-scholarships>

### **Study Mode/Course Duration**

This programme will be offered on both a part time and full time basis. All teaching will take place in the evening on either one night for part time or two nights for full time. There will be one intake a year in September.

## Entry requirements

It is recommended that applicants should have a 2:1 degree in a relevant subject, which ideally includes some element of Popular Music Studies. However, it is not always possible to study popular music as an undergraduate pathway therefore other pathways will also be considered, for example Cultural Studies, History, English, Music, Media. Appropriate professional qualifications and/or experience will also be taken into account: non-traditional entrants may be interviewed. All prospective students will be expected to demonstrate critical engagement with popular music texts and possess analytical writing skills. Entrance therefore may be influenced by exemplar written work such as a review of a recently seen concert, an argument re the location (of aspects of) an oeuvre within popular music, or a discussion on the music industry.

## Future Career Opportunities

Although this course will have a wide appeal, it would be beneficial to those teaching in schools or in FE or HE. There is evidence to suggest the importance of postgraduate qualifications for those teaching Music or Popular Music.

As with other areas of industry, within the music industry itself postgraduate qualifications are of increasing importance.

## For further information

Please contact the Postgraduate and International Recruitment and Admissions Team on **0151 291 3389** or **postgraduate@hope.ac.uk** for further details of the application process.

Please note that we hold several Postgraduate Open Evenings every year. Further details regarding these events can be found on our website: **[www.hope.ac.uk/postgraduate](http://www.hope.ac.uk/postgraduate)**