

Scheme of Work.

Geography of Popular Music & Physical Geo fieldtrip. Ian Smith

Module: 7 weeks.

Pop Music Module notes: This is a form of social geography which also has elements of political & multi-cultural Geo as studied on the Leaving Cert. curriculum. Its aim is to show students the possibilities for radical social change that can be inspired by music.

Module work & assessment: There are 2 essays that they must complete on the 2nd & 5th Fridays of the module. There is an elective essay then that also must be completed based on a music type of their choice.

There is class time dedicated to the field project which would use the computer rooms to create presentations that are audio visually based.

The Classes.

Class 1: Different types of music from different countries. The different ways in which people enjoy music & why.

- Music from Ireland, England, USA, India, Iraq, China, Russia – does it conform to politics, religion etc of these countries?
- Enjoying opera – sitting down & in control. Why?
- Enjoying rave – jumping around, wild & often uncontrolled movement. Why?
- What are the implications of controlling ones reaction to music? What are the implications of going wild?

Class 2: The politics of popular music. Music that is explicitly political. Music that is more subversive in its message. Conflict through music – how different regions use music to identify & differentiate themselves.

- Political music – Punk music, Grunge music, Bubble gum pop music, Traditional music Saudi Arabia.
- Conflict in song – football hooligans, Protestants & Catholics in Ireland.

Class 3: The power of music. How governments have used movements to influence its people. The use of music in geopolitical disputes.

- USA – The Mighty Eagle.
- England – Land of Hope & Glory.
- The function of National Anthems.

Class 4: Music causing social change. The hippy movement in 1960's America. Its influence on the opinions of the middle classes.

- The Vietnam war - How music changed the minds of one of the most patriotic nations in the world. Flower Power etc.

Class 5: The music of the recession: Music of the unhappy & disaffected youth. How music is used as a tool to rebel against the state.

- Oi Punk music. 1980's Britain. "There is no future for England's dreaming". Johnny Rotten, The Sex Pistols. The violent movement that arose in Thatcherite Britain – linked to hooliganism also.