MUS 15
Summer Session 1

**OMG! It’s a Girl Drummer.**

Rhythm and Gender in American Popular Music

July 2 - August 4, 2013
Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:00 - 7:50 pm
Final Meeting on Saturday August 3rd 7:00 - 9:50 pm

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In this course we will investigate historical ideas about rhythm and gender, and how these ideas have reestablished themselves in a contemporary context. In addition to building a foundation of textual, musical and visual examples from throughout history and across the globe, we will focus on how gender is performed and represented through drumming in American popular culture today, from Sheila E and Prince, Beyoncé’s Suga Mamas, the all-girl bands of the 1940s and 60s, to the amazing “girl drummer” stars of YouTube! We will explore source readings, images, sound recordings, videos and even live performances (including an in-class lecture performance by jazz drummer Allison Miller). There will be a guest lecture by Mindy Abovitz, drummer and creator/publisher of Tom Tom Magazine, a journal devoted exclusively to the promotion of female drummers!

Course participants will each contribute: speaking points and engaged participation during our in-class discussions; three personal response papers (1-2 pages each); a 10-minute presentation on the topic of your choice on Thursday of week 5; and an original “editorial” or research paper on your topic due at the final meeting (4-6 pages).

Grading Rubric:
- Participation: 25%
- Response papers: 25%
- Oral presentation: 25%
- Final paper: 25%

**Tuesday July 2nd: Introductions**
We will introduce ourselves, go over the syllabus, discuss critical issues and preview course materials.
Thursday July 4th: University Holiday... no class!

Tuesday July 9th: Drumming and Consumer Culture
Guest speaker: Mindy Abovitz, founder of Tom Tom Magazine

- ‘We Got the Beat’ New Mexico Compass http://nmcompass.com/2013/04/18/we-got-the-beat/
- ‘We’re Still Talking about Women in Music’ http://laparadiddle.com/2013/06/27/were-still-talking-about-women-in-music/
- Assignment #1 (distributed via email)

Thursday July 11th: Gender, Race and Authenticity in Jazz
Guest speaker: drummer/ composer/ bandleader Allison Miller.
IMPORTANT NOTE: Class will be 4:30 pm - 7 pm today to accommodate Miller’s availability. Extra Credit opportunity: attend her performance after class; it begins at 7:30 pm. La Jolla Athenaeum: http://ljathenaeum.org/jazz.html

- Rustin, Nichole. “Mary Lou Williams Plays like a Man”

Tuesday July 16th: Goddesses, Mothers, Muses... and Schoolgirls
Music as Gender Training. Drumming, gender and symbolism. Recovering lost histories. Modern day muses!

- Musicology and Difference, p. 1-10
- Macleod, From Whence Comes the Female Timpanist
- Assignment #2

Thursday July 18th: Glamourous Spectacle on the Home Front
Beautiful Musicians. Female-ness as a Theme. Women, music and nationalism.

- Smith, Viola. ‘Give Girl Musicians a Break!” Down Beat Magazine, 1942
- Tucker, Sherrie. ‘And Fellas, They’re American Girls!’ On the Road with Sharon Rogers All-Girl Band.
- Article on Beyonce and Suga Mamas: http://vitaminw.co/culture/beyonces-all-female-band-challenges-music-industry-stereotypes (be sure to watch the embedded clip)

Tuesday July 23rd: Critical Theory
Theoretical texts dealing with bodies, identities and music. Feminist protest music. Screening of Pussy Riot documentary.
- Peraino, Judith Ann. *Listening to Gender: A Response to Judith Halberstam*
- Submit paper topics via email before today’s class

**Thursday July 25th: YouTube and other Online Drum Communities**
The drum cover. Comments sections, drummerforum.com

No more assigned reading (to allow for research).
- Assignment #3

**Tuesday July 30th: PRESENTATIONS**

**Thursday August 1st: various topics presented by instructor**

**Saturday August 3rd (7 pm - 9:50 pm): FINAL MEETING**
- turn in your paper
- potluck? :-)
