

Music and Social Action (A005637)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2) Dutch, English Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Reynaert, Tina	LW17	staff member
Severyns, Erika	LW17	staff member
De bisschop, An	LW17	lecturer-in-charge
Parente La Selva, Adriana	LW17	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies	5	A
Exchange Programme Art Studies	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies	5	A

Teaching languages

English, Dutch

Keywords

Music, social action

Position of the course

Third bachelor in the Art History, Musicology and Theatre studies program: major music

Contents

This module introduces students to the role that music can play in the building of social communities and in supporting social processes. The focus is on participatory and socio-artistic music practices (Belgium), and the international field of community music (globally). We will examine the history and framework of objectives of this field, the musical forms of practice and presentation, and the importance and influence of specific contexts. The Eurocentric perspective is transcended here, and colonial reflexes are critically examined.

Community music links musical creation with the fight against processes of social and cultural exclusion, based on the conviction that musical practices can contribute to the realisation of citizenship, emancipation and development. This course examines this ambition through (a) recent research literature and (b) the discussion of concrete musical practices, focusing on both local and international examples. In doing so, we will address critical issues such as the relative importance and interpretation of musical output in relation to process elements and contextuality; the various interpretations of 'participation' in musical creation; the perspectives of participants and musical facilitators on 'social impact'; and the skills musicians need to lead this type of musical practice.

Initial competences

No specific preliminary knowledge is required.

Final competences

- 1 To develop knowledge of the theoretical basis of the field of music and social action
- 2 To be able to design and conduct a personal case study

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Group work, Seminar, Excursion, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

The lectures provide opportunities for dialogue and interaction; two seminars focus on guiding the group work; a list of excursions (performances of participatory musical practices) is provided, of which students must attend at least one performance.

Students are required to attend classes (continuous assessment), except for students on an exam-only contract and working students. An alternative arrangement may be agreed with them.

No lecture recordings are made or made available.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: The Sound of Connection. Participatory Music Practices and Social Action in Flanders and Brussels.

Indicative price: € 35

Optional: no

Author : Filip Verneert & An De bisschop

Additional information: OWL Press

Type: Reader

Name: Music and social action: Reader

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Number of Pages : 200

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

References

- Bartleet, Brydie-Leigh & Hesser, Barbara (eds): 'Music as a Global Resource: Solutions for Cultural, Social, Health, Educational, Environmental, and Economic Issues' (compendium, 5th edition), Music as a Global Resource, New York, 2020
- Belfiore, Eleonora & Bennett, Oliver: 'The Social Impact of the Arts – An Intellectual History', Palgrave Macmillan UK, 2008
- DeNora, Tia: 'Music in everyday life', Cambridge (UK), Cambridge University Press, 2000
- Odena, Oscar (ed): 'Music and Social Inclusion – International Research and Practice in Complex Settings', Routledge, 2022
- Sloboda, John & Bergh, Arild: 'Music and Art in Conflict Transformation: A Review', in: Music & Arts in Action (vol. 2, issue 2), 2010

Course content-related study coaching

dr. Lukas Pairon

dr. An de Bisschop (School of Arts)

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Oral assessment, Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

The final assessment is based on participation in lectures and seminars (1/4), and a written assignment (paper, resulting from group work) which is defended orally during the oral examination (3/4).

Calculation of the examination mark

3/4 paper and oral defence, 1/4 participation in lectures and seminars

Facilities for Working Students

Alternatives for the participation can be negotiated. The written paper also applies to working students.