

The course schedule is provisional and might be subject to changes. The dates of the course are final (7<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019)

## HEAVY METAL MUSIC IN CONTEMPORARY HISTORY AND SOCIETY

**Location:** Seminar room C120, Topelia IIC (Unioninkatu 28), City Center Campus, University of Helsinki

### **Provisional Course Schedule 2019**

The course schedule is provisional and might be subject to changes. The dates of the course are final (7<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019)

FRAME 1

Day	Content of the regular class (macro-summary)	Content of the workshop	Other/notes
7.8.	<p><b>Practicalities</b>            Course introduction            Summary of contents and methodology Teacher's introduction            Instructions for the readings and individual work</p>	Round of introduction	-
8.8.	<p><b>Before heavy metal</b>            The historical and socio-cultural setting at the origins of Heavy Metal music            'Hard rock' or 'heavy metal'?            The decline of the hippie sub-culture and the political changes at the end of the 1960s</p> <p><b>The first steps of heavy metal and its extra-musical main characteristics</b>            Rise of the HM sub-culture            Pessimistic and critical attitude towards politics and humanity            Technophobia            Anti-militarism            Working-class, masculinity, and anti-patriarchy            Interest in sci-fi, mythology, and occultism</p>	Readings	<p>Readings: Weinstein, <i>Heavy Metal</i>, pp. 11-21. Lilja, <i>Theory and Analysis...</i>, pp. 20-39. Walser, <i>Running with the Devil</i>, pp. 1-11. Gannon, "Adorno..."</p>

<p>9.8.</p>	<p><b>The musical influences of early heavy metal</b>                  Led Zeppelin: blues and jazz influences                  Deep Purple: classical influences in heavy metal music</p>	<p>GUEST-LECTURE: Dr. Esa Lilja (University of Helsinki) on music theory in heavy metal, the importance of distortion, power-chords and ‘false musical myths’ about heavy metal</p> <p>GUEST-LECTURE: Kristian Wahlström (University of Helsinki) on <i>groove</i>, rhythmic concepts in heavy metal and teaching music through heavy metal repertoire</p>	<p>Readings: Walser pp. 57-93.</p>
<p>12.8.</p>	<p><b>Elements of musical novelty: power-chords and multiple soloists</b>                  Black Sabbath: power-chord harmony in HM                  Judas Priest: dual twin guitars and the role of the soloist                  Sci-fi, occultism and other borderline extra-musical references</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>Reading: Lilja, <i>Theory and Harmony...</i> pp. 210-213.                  Wahlström, “The Groove of Hard Rock and Heavy Metal”.</p>

FRAME 2

Day	Content of the regular class	Content of the workshop	Other/notes
13.8.	<p><b>Changes and division in 1980s heavy metal</b>                      Political and social changes in USA and Europe                      Development of TV as a musical mass media: birth of MTV in 1981                      Fragmentation of the genre in the 1980s into different sub-genres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- classic HM</li> <li>- extreme metal</li> <li>- pop metal</li> <li>- (NWOBHM)</li> </ul> <p><b>Thrash metal</b>                      Musical characteristics, similarities to and differences from traditional HM                      The influence of punk music                      Social and political involvement</p> <p>USA: the San Francisco Bay Area and the East Coast (Metallica, Megadeth, Exodus, Anthrax, Nuclear Assault, Overkill, Slayer, Death Angel, Testament, etc.)                      German-area thrash: Sodom, Destruction, Kreator, Coroner                      Other geographical areas: Britain (Onslaught, Sabbath), Brazil (Sepultura)</p>	Regular class	

14.8.	<p><b>Classic HM and New Wave of British HM</b>                  Old band from the 1970s continue their careers                  NWOBHM, its brief life span and its legacy: what it was about                  Neoclassical metal and guitar heroes: Van Halen, Randy Rhoads, Yngwie Malmsteen, etc.</p>	<p>Screening of the documentary film series 'The Pioneers of LA Hard Rock &amp; Metal' and 'The LA Metal Scene Explodes', kindly provided by Mr Bob Nalbandian.</p>	
15.8.	<p><b>Pop metal (AOR)</b>                  Consequences on the commercial appeal of heavy metal; heavy as mainstream music                  Pop metal as expression of the consumerist culture of the 1980s                  In USA: Whitesnake, Journey, Poison, Foreigner, Bon Jovi, Guns'n'Roses, etc.                  In Europe: Europe, Gary Moore, Def Leppard, etc.                  Attacks from politics and media, e.g. the PMRC</p>	<p>Screening of the documentary film series 'The Pioneers of LA Hard Rock &amp; Metal' and 'The LA Metal Scene Explodes', kindly provided by Mr Bob Nalbandian.</p>	

FRAME 3

Day	Content of the regular class	Content of the workshop	Other/notes
16.8.	<p><b>The 1990s and temporary decline</b>                  Further diversification of the three main sub-genres                  Rise of Grunge (polemical attitude towards the music industry) and temporary decline of some genres of heavy metal                  Crossovers, e.g. nu metal                  The many forms of extreme metal: Black metal, its areas of development and crime problems within the scene; Death and doom metal                  Other forms of extreme metal</p>	<p>GUEST-LECTURE: Dr. Toni-Matti Karjalainen (Aalto University, Helsinki) on the business and brand-creative side of Finnish heavy metal                  GUEST-LECTURE: Susanna Mesiä (Sibelius Akatemia, Metropolia AMK) on vocals in heavy metal</p>	<p>Reading: Sipilä</p>

	Black metal, its areas of development and crime problems within the scene Death and doom metal		
19.8.	<b>The 2000s and 2010s. Splitting into national scenes and traditions</b> Decline of music industry, changing recording processes and distribution channels Is contemporary HM an expression of contemporary society? The future of heavy metal Metal and academia	GUEST-LECTURE: TBA	
20.8.	<b>Metal in Finland</b> Origins and development Economically successful bands: Stratovarius, HIM, Children of Bodom, Nightwish Other internationally recognized Finnish acts: Sonata Arctica, Insomnium, Finntroll, Ensiferum, Tarot, and many others.  Screening of the documentary <i>The Metal Syndrome</i> , about contemporary artists of the Finnish heavy metal scene	GUEST-LECTURE: Douglas Blair Lucek (lead guitarist in W.A.S.P.) about the methods of making records, tour schedules, and surviving in the industry nowadays	
21.8.	Questions, preparation towards the final exam, further activities planned in according to the needs of the class	GUEST-LECTURE: TBA	
22.8.	Exam; course assessment	Final wrap-up; Q&A; Final greetings	