

Gender, Sexuality, and Music—Final overview

Brooks Fall 2025

	Introductory Ideas	Speech Mechanics & Gendered Instruments	Activism & Delivering a Speech	Musical Activism	Sound Studies and Listening	Voice, Timbre, and Technology	New York, take 1	New York, take 2
Date	Week 1, Aug 26-28	Week 2, Sept 2-4	Week 3, Sep 9-11	Week 4, Sept 16-18	Week 5, Sept 23-25	Week 6, Sept 30-Oct 2	Week 7, Oct 7-9	Week 8, Oct 14-16
Topic	Syllabus, Introductory Ideas / Ways that Gender & Sexuality occur in music	Canons / Instruments and gendered stereotypes / Music, Gender, and Class in Domestic Piano Playing in the 1800s	Musicians & Activism. Music, space, and power. Queer Joy & Podcasts	Music and the Civil Rights Movement / Collective Singing / Freedom Songs / Events / Musical Fundraising / Musical Responses /	Soundscapes and Soundwalks, Sonic Patriarchy / Ethics of Care—Loving Music or Loving People?	Early Voices, Power, and Control / Voices and Technology / Loudness Bias & Gender / Our Own Voices / Phonograph Effects / Gender Bias and Recordings / Crooners / Autotune / Gendered Voices & Technology	Sonic Patriarchy / Ethics of Care—Loving Music or Loving People? / Speech Ethics / Acousmatic Listening	No Class, Fall Break and Preparation of Common Assignment #2
Readings/ Discussions /Ideas/ Listening	Tracy McMullen , "Gender, ii." <i>Oxford Music Online</i> ;	Victorian Piano Stereotypes / Women in Hip Hop; Speech Mechanics	Girl Groups (listening to The Chantels, Bobbettes, Shirelles, Marvellettes, Ronettes); Reading on Delivering a Speech ; Reading on Queer Joy & Podcast Activism	Music and the civil rights movement / Listening to Mingus, Coltrane, Dylan, Sam Cooke, Nina Simone / Ch. 10 on Language / Contextualizing Common Assignment #1 (rhetorical analysis)	Sound Studies, Listening versus Hearing, Identity and Sound / Soundwalk / Chapter 2 Audience Analysis and Listening	Nuns and enclosure and feminine voices; Castrati; Technology and Gender / Discussion on our own voices & gendered speech / Reading from AO Roberts, "Gendered Voices and Technology"	Reading from William Cheng , Excerpt from <i>Loving Music Till It Hurts</i> / Speech Ethics / Outlining and Organizing Your Speech / Stereotypes of Acousmatic Listening / Preparation for Common Assignment #2	N/a

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Brooks Spring 2024

	New York, take 1	New York, take 2	New York, take 3	Group Presentations	Group Presentations / Finishing New York / Starting Voice	The Voice	Soundscapes / Music, Gender, and Sexuality Now
Date	Week 9, October 21-23	Week 10, October 28-30	Week 11, Nov 4-6	Week 12, Nov 11-13	Week 13, Nov 18-20	Week 14, Nov 25 (No class)	Week 15, Dec 2-5
Terms, Topics	Gender, Sexuality & Dancing / Researching Queer History / Male & Female Impersonators in the 19th and Early 20th centuries / vice laws & urban planning & anti-queer bias /	The Blues in the 1920s—Assessing Gender, Race, and Class / Groupwork on New York Introduction	Broadway Musicals / Gendered Histories and Geographies of Broadway / Queer Topics in Musicals / Broadway and Heteronormativity ? Queer Readings /	Histories of Stonewall and Dancing / Disco / Coded Lyrics / Queer Meanings in Disco / context about <i>son</i> and <i>salsa</i> / Fania records / Gender in salsa / Salsa sensual	Hip Hop Histories and Gender and Geographies / History of waves of feminism / Riot grrrl / fanzines / thinking about Research	Thanksgiving Break, Work on Group Presentations	Group Presentations
Activities / Skills / Readings	Reading Excerpt from Dale Cockrell, <i>Everybody's Doing It</i> / Suggested extra resources on George Chauncey & Hugh Ryan (queer neighborhoods & histories in NYC) / Listening to Vesta Tilley / Scholarship from Marybeth Hamilton on changing attitudes to queer life in the 1930s / Chapter 5: Researching Your Speeches / Finding Groupwork Topics	Listening to Bessie Smith and Ma Rainey / Assessing Reliability and Sources Work on creating a body of a speech (Ch. 10)	Stacy Wolf , Ideas from <i>Changed for Good: A Feminist History of the Broadway Musical</i> and <i>How do You Solve a Problem Like Maria</i> / Listening to "Marry the Man Today," "For Good," and excerpts from <i>Sound of Music</i> and <i>Wicked</i> / Groupwork on Research & Sources	Listening from The Blue Notes / Discussion of opening credits of <i>Saturday Night Fever</i> Assessing Reliability and Evaluating Sources—What is peer review? / Listening to Celia Cruz and Ray Barretto and Willie Colón and La India and Cardi B /	Listening to Bikini Kill / Figuring out and Narrowing a Topic / Presentation Aids (How to Use Slides) / Work on Introductions in Speeches (Ch 9), Bodies (Ch 10) and Reviewing Outlining (Ch 12)		Group Presentations, Journals, Reflection Questions