Taught by David Crook, Professor of Music History and Facilitator for the Institutes for the Healing of Racism, Music 203 builds on students’ experience of popular song to facilitate understanding of the construction of race and ethnic identity in American popular song from the end of the Civil War to the present.

The course proceeds through a series of case studies in which individual songs provide a focus for the study of topics such as blackface minstrelsy, U.S. imperialism and musical exoticism, indigenous musics and the stereotypical sounds of Indians in American song and film, protest songs of the Civil Rights Movement, and the work of black musicians as cultural ambassadors within the context of the U.S. government's Cold War diplomacy. Along the way, we will use what we learn from our study of these historical examples to consider how race figures in more recent writing about singers as different from one another as Beyoncé, Daryl Hall, Toby Keith, and Katy Perry.

For more detailed information, see the Red Start Man (Instructor Provided Content) in the Course Search and Enroll Guide at MyUW. Or contact David Crook, dcrook@wisc.edu.

Fulfills

Ethnic-Studies Requirement

and

Humanities Breadth Requirement