

**Summer 2027**  
**Music History & Culture Division**  
**Advanced-Level Course Offering**

Course: **MUSC 471/571 Section 030 (Hybrid Format) – Special Topics in Music History & Culture**  
Course Topic: **Music and Social Action**  
Instructor: Dr. Gretchen Carlson  
Days/Time: Tuesday/Thursday 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

This course meets during the second 5-week summer session which runs from June 30, 2027 to August 4, 2027.

Course Note: ***This course is open to any music major needing MH&C units at the 400 level.***

Course Overview: How did Billie Holiday’s haunting rendition of “Strange Fruit” launch a national dialogue against racial terror? How did Marvin Gaye’s revolutionary conscious album *What’s Going On?* critique contemporary issues of poverty, racial violence, and the Vietnam War? How did Bad Bunny’s controversial 2026 Super Bowl Halftime Show spark widespread public discourse about U.S. immigration policies, while also celebrating Puerto Rican and pan-American culture?

This course examines the relationships between music and social action, with particular emphasis on the 20<sup>th</sup> century to the present. We will explore significant musical works and cultural movements from genres throughout the globe, including blues, jazz, folk music, rock, soul, reggae, punk, Afrobeats, and hip-hop/rap. We will also examine the artists behind these musical revolutions—from Woody Guthrie to Bob Marley, from Nina Simone to Dolly Parton, from Sam Cooke to Kendrick Lamar—developing an understanding of how their personal experiences and ideologies inspired and shaped their work. We will critically engage with numerous primary sources (including interviews, performance footage, media reports, artists’ documents, etc.), as well as scholarly materials. You will also have the opportunity to engage in ethnographic research, observing how music is utilized in socially active local communities.

This **HYBRID CLASS** is taught partly online; some in-person instruction is replaced by independent learning activities.

- ▶ Class will meet in person on the first and last dates of the session: **Thursday, July 1 and Tuesday, August 3.**
- ▶ Other scheduled Tuesday and Thursday meeting times will be held synchronously/live via ZOOM, with the meetings accessed via a link in Blackboard.
- ▶ The five-week series of 120-minute scheduled classes on Tuesdays/Thursdays account for half of the course content; the remaining half will consist of asynchronous guided reading/listening/writing.

**Come join us for this exciting and newly launched summer course!**