

MUS 15: David Bowie

Section Meeting 5

Monday, February 8, 2021

Meeting Outline

1. Opening Song: *Neukölln*
2. Announcements
3. Unit 1 Test
4. Conversation about Module 5
5. Discussion
6. Questions

Opening Song:

Neukölln

Announcements

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- Discussion 4 is DUE by tonight, [Feb 8](#) at 11:59 pm.
- Paper 1 is DUE by this Thursday, [Feb 11](#) at 11:59 pm.
- All other Unit 1 assignments are DUE by Thursday, [Feb 11](#) at 11:59 pm. These include the weekly in-module assignments and the end-of-unit test.
- Discussion 5 is DUE by next Monday, [Feb 15](#) at 11:59 pm.
- The hard deadline for Discussions 1-5 is [Feb 15](#) at 11:59 pm. I won't deduct any late points for posts turned in **before** this date, including Discussions 1-4. **However, no posts will be accepted after Feb 15.**

Unit 1 Test

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- **The Unit 1 test is now available on Canvas. You must complete it before this Thursday, Feb 11 at 11:59 pm.**
 - You will listen to some media and answer questions about the content.
 - There are 20 questions and 10 listening examples (about 2 questions per example).
 - The test is closed-book and closed-notes. No resources may be consulted.
 - There is a 60-minute time limit.
 - You must complete the test in one sitting.
- **To prepare for the test, I strongly encourage you to:**
 - Review all of the materials under “Unit 1 Test Review” in the Modules tab on Canvas
 - Watch all of the Module 1-5 lectures (if you haven’t already done so)
 - Review your notes (or my notes, which I’ve included on the section webpage)

Conversation about Module 5

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- **Module 5 covered the following key topics:**
 - Bowie's musical collaborations with Iggy Pop and Brian Eno in Berlin
 - His innovations in musical improvisation, minimalism, and ambient rock
 - His opposition to corporate rock
 - His albums *Low*, *Heroes*, and *Lodger*

Discussion

Discussion: Week 5

- **Please address the following topic for Discussion 5:**
 - How do you think the environment of a musician affects the sound of the music, especially as the musician moves between physical locations? In Bowie's case, is there a "chicken or the egg" question at play? Did he move to LA or Berlin because he wanted to change his music, or did he change his music because he moved to those places? Can you think of any other similar cases where we tie a musician's output to the place where they lived, particularly people who moved around?

Discussion: Week 5

- To earn full credit for this assignment, your post must be at least 250 words long, and you must provide a 2-3 sentence response to at least one other student's post.
- *In your response to the other student, please be supportive by providing constructive feedback.*

Discussion: Some ideas to get you thinking

- **Berlin seems to have directly influenced Bowie's musical writing:**
 - *"At that time, with the [Berlin] Wall still up, there was a feeling of terrific tension throughout the city. It was either very young or very old people. There were no family units in Berlin. It was a city of extremes ... For the first time, the tension was outside of me rather than within me. And it was a real interesting process, writing for me under those conditions."* -- David Bowie
- However, it's not evident from this quote whether Bowie moved to Berlin because of these conditions or whether he discovered these conditions while living there. Can you find any evidence one way or the other?
- Try looking at the reading materials provided in the course reserves. (The quote above comes from Chapter 12 of *David Bowie: Critical Perspectives*).

Questions