Commercial/Popular Music Theory I
MUSI S-207
Summer 2024 (Session B)

Meeting Information
MWF 10:00–12:15

Instructor
Dr Nathaniel Adam (he pronouns)
Lecturer, Department of Music
nathaniel.adam@yale.edu

Office Hours
Email to schedule office hours by appointment (Wednesdays and Thursdays preferable).

Course Description
An introduction to music-theory analysis of commercial and popular song (with a focus on American and British music of the past 50 years, across multiple genres). Coursework involves study of form, meter and hypermeter, rhythm, text setting, melody, and harmony, with assigned reading, listening, musical transcription and arranging, and weekly written/oral presentation of analysis.

Format
Synchronous, in-person lecture formant. Additional asynchronous participation in Canvas discussion boards may be required.

Required Materials
Students must be able to utilize a music streaming service (eg Spotify, Apple Music, etc) and notation software (eg Dorico, Sibelius, MuseScore, etc).

Assignments, Assessments & Grading
There will be six homework assignments of song analysis, worth 6.66% of the final grade each (40% total). There will be four quizzes, worth 5% each (20% total). The final oral presentation and written paper are worth 10% each (20% total), and contribution to in-class discussion is worth 20% (approximately 1.3% per class).

Course Policies
Attendance is mandatory. Multiple absences may result in full-letter-grade deduction.
Academic Integrity
All submitted assignments must be the original work of the student alone. Copying of or reference to other work without citation is not allowed. Absolutely no use of artificial intelligence or related software is allowed in the completion of class assignments.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging
I am committed to providing a safe and inclusive classroom community. I ask all students to join me in maintaining a respectful and considerate environment for discussing music together. Please let me know if you or anyone else in the class feels threatened, diminished, or unheard.

Accessibility
Please contact me with any concerns about accessibility of materials, assignments, or class lectures.