



# Fight the power: Protest and popular culture

Seminarfach English (CL)



## Come together: protest songs and protest singers (11.1)

From anti-Vietnam war ballads to miner's strike songs, from blues to hip hop and rap, artists have long voiced **counter-cultural anger**, highlighting some uncomfortable truths which matter to vulnerable people. Musicians have used their **songs as a political voice**, as ammunition, songs written about the rights and liberties that people have fought to achieve and protect over the centuries.

(course requirement: essay)



## Heavy weaponry: The role of the arts in political protest (11.2)

Understood in the broadest sense to include music and **street theatre** as well as all forms of **visual representation** (**street art** and **graffiti**), artistic expression has an undisputed place in **social activism**. Artists have been involved in political protests and movements throughout the modern era and the linkages between aesthetics and politics, **art and propaganda** has been long debated. Can political art be good art, can good art be political? How effective is politicized art and the artists who make it? What exactly does art do in demonstrations of political protest?

(course requirement: presentation)

## Angry young men and women: Protest in fiction and film (12.1)

**Works of fiction** (novels, dramas) as well as **films** dramatize prevailing **social problems**, such as gender, race, or class prejudice, through their effect on the characters. By exposing the flaws and **injustices** of some aspect of the controlling/dominant culture they emphasize the idea of **social change**, the idea of **revolution**.

(course requirements: coursework, presentation)

## Talking about a revolution: creative workshop (12.2)

(course requirement: creative exercises)

*Please note that this course will be **entirely in English!***

*Study trip to Edinburgh/Glasgow (Scotland) with TG Heidelberg/TG Würfel*