

Fall 2021

JNST 000K: The Club

Professor Tim Seiber

Tues//Thurs. 2:30-3:50

Description:

At one time or another, most people will end up dancing to music. For many of these people, that dancing will take place inside a club. Modern clubs, outfitted with complex lighting set-ups, sound systems, and artificial environmental features, regularly attract dancers by promoting new technologies, famous or underground DJs, and a safe and fun atmosphere, often decorated with a theme. But while this experience can be exhilarating, modern clubbers are often unaware of the legacies – cultural, political, regulatory, musical, and technological – that have come together to make possible modern electronic dance music and its attendant environments, including single-use clubs, festivals, house parties, and stadium-level events. This class will marshal all of these historical forces and think through the traditions and expectations that form a dominant current mode of dancing. We'll learn about the influence of Jamaica and Germany, how queers and people of color formed a tight crucible to keep dance culture alive, read about Chicago and Detroit. We'll also listen to music, talk about gender issues in current club culture, and perhaps throw a party or two for the Johnston community.