

Cultural Studies and Critical Interpretative Methods:

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Department of Communication
Office Hours Mon 4:30-5:30

Course Description

This course will offer students the opportunity to become familiar with the history, applications and limitations of several theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of contemporary culture and popular media that have been developed in the emergent research field known as cultural studies. It is intended to provide students with analytical frameworks for understanding contemporary cultural life. Debates and issues within cultural studies and debates between cultural studies and other schools of thought will serve as the organizing agenda for exploring: the relationships between culture, experience and unequal social relations of gender, race, class, nation, and sexuality; youth cultures, resistance through rituals; popular culture, power and public policy; cultural imperialism and center-periphery relations; poststructuralism and its implications for the study of culture; and the impact of cultural studies across the disciplines. This course is interdisciplinary and should be of interest to students with backgrounds in several different areas, including: a) research methods that combine textual analysis of contemporary popular media and culture with sociological analysis; b) theoretical encounters and bridges between continental thought and American traditions; c) feminist theory, poststructuralism, semiotics, cultural geography, psychoanalysis, Marxist political economy analysis, postcolonialism and critical race theory; and d) the application of literary and rhetorical theories to the media and popular culture.

The following books have been ordered for the course:

REQUIRED

Fiske, J. (1998). Introduction to Communication Studies (Required). New York: Routledge..
Foucault, M. (1978). The History of Sexuality, Volume I (Required) New York: Random House.
Hebdige, D. (1988). Subculture: The Meaning of Style. (Required). London: Methuen.
Jencks, C. (1986). What is post-modernism? (Required). New York: St. Martin's Press.
Rose, G. (2005). Visual Methodologies. (Required). Thousand Oaks, California: Sage.
Todorov, T. (1982). The Conquest of America. (Required). New York: Harper and Collins.

RECOMMENDED

- Czitrom, D. (1982) Media and the American Mind. (Recommended). Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina.
- Evans, J. & Hall, S. (Eds.) (1999). Visual Culture: The Reader. (Recommended) London: Sage.
- Hall, S., Held, D., Hubert, D. & Thompson, K. (1996). (Eds). Modernity. (Recommended). Cambridge, Massachusetts: Blackwell.
- Rosaldo, (1993). Culture and Truth. (Recommended). Boston, Massachusetts: Beacon.
- Storey, J. (Ed.). (1998). Cultural Theory and Popular culture: A Reader (Recommended). Athens, Georgia.

*****ALL RECOMMENDED BOOK MATERIALS (ALONG WITH OTHER READINGS) WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO A PACKET OR READER FOR THE COURSE THAT CAN BE PURCHASED FROM THE BOOKSTORE. ONLY REQUIRED BOOKS ARE EXPECTED TO BE BOUGHT.**

Course Requirements

Students will be expected to:

1. Complete all assigned readings and participate in class discussion.....10% of Grade
2. Complete a short paper proposal/problem statement (1-2 pages) to be submitted by the sixth session of the class (Tuesday, February 26, 2008). You will be expected to do a short presentation on your proposal in class. Make enough copies for circulation to class members.....15%
3. Submit a 5-7 page finished paper proposal (with bibliography).....25% of Grade
4. Propose and complete a 10-12 page paper.....50% of Grade
5. Term papers are due on or before April xx.

Week 1: Introduction to Cultural Studies

What is Cultural Studies? Discussion of course outline, assignments, sign up for one-on-one meetings to discuss project proposal for the course, classroom presentation on the readings, and on term paper proposal and progress.

Arnold, M. (1998). Culture and anarchy. In, Storey (Ed.), Cultural Theory and Popular Culture (pp. 7-12).....In Reader

Hoggart, R. (1998). The full rich life & the newer mass art: Sex in shiny packets. In J. Storey (Ed.) Cultural theory and popular culture: A reader (pp. 42-47). New York: Harvester Wheatsheaf. ...In Reader

Czitrom, D. "Lightning lines" and the birth of modern communications. In, Media and the American Mind (3-29).....In the Reader

Week 2: Defining Cultural Studies I (Cultural Populism)

Leavis, F.R. (1998). Mass civilization and minority culture. In, Storey (Ed.), Cultural Theory and Popular Culture (pp. 13-21)..... In Reader

Czitrom, D. (1982). American motion pictures. In, Media and the American Mind (pp. 30-59)..... In the Reader

Fiske, J. (1998). Introduction: What is communication? & Communication theory. In Fiske, Introduction to Communication Studies (pp, 1-5; pp. 7-23).

Foucault, M. (1978). Part One: We "Other Victorians." In, The History of Sexuality, Volume I (pp. 1-13).

Week 3: Defining Cultural Studies II (Early Problematics)

Czitrom, D. (1982). The ethereal hearth. In, Media and the American Mind (pp. 60-90)..... In the Reader

Hall, S. (1990). The emergence of cultural studies and the crisis of the humanities. In, October 53 (pp. 11-23).In Reader

Hebdige, D. (1988) Introduction & chapters 1-3, Subculture: The Meaning of Style (pp.1-45).

Week 4: The Frankfurt School: Part One

Fiske, J. (1998). Other models. In Fiske, Introduction to Communication Studies (pp. 24-38).

Adorno, T. & Horkheimer, M. (1993). The culture industry; Enlightenment as mass deception. In, S. During (Ed), The Cultural Studies Reader (pp.29-43).In Reader

Rose, G. (2005). Psychoanalysis: Visual culture, visual pleasure, visual disruption. In. Rose, Visual Methodologies. (pp. 100-134).

Week 5: The Frankfurt School: Part Two

Adorno, T. (1998). On popular music. In J. Storey (Ed.) Cultural theory and popular culture: A reader (pp. 197-209).....In Reader.

Benjamin, W. (1968). The work of art in the age of mechanical reproduction. In Evans, J. & Hall, S. (Eds.) (1999). Visual Culture: The Reader. (pp. 72-79).....In the Reader

Rose, G. (2005). Discourse Analysis 1: Text, intertextuality, context. In. Rose, Visual Methodologies. (pp. 135-163).

Week 6: Marxism and Cultural Studies

Althusser, L. (1998). Ideology and the ideological state apparatus. In J. Storey (Ed.), Cultural theory and popular culture (pp. 153-164). In Reader

Foucault, M. (1978). Part Two: The Repressive Hypothesis. The History of Sexuality, Volume I (pp. 15-49).

Marx, K., & Engels, F. (1998). Ruling class and ruling ideas. In J. Storey (Ed.) Cultural theory and popular culture: A reader (pp. 191-192)....In Reader

Marx, K. (1998). Base and superstructure. In J. Storey (Ed.) Cultural theory and popular culture (p. 193).In Reader

Week 7: Poststructuralism/ Postmodernism

Baudrillard, J. (1998). The Precession of the Simulacra. In, J. Storey (Ed.) Cultural theory and popular culture: A reader (pp. 350-358)..... In Reader.

Jencks, C. (1986). What is post-modernism? New York: St. Martin's Press.

Fiske, J. (1998). Codes & Signification. In Fiske, Introduction to Communication Studies (pp. 64-84; pp. 85-100).

Week 8: Feminist Theory

Bobo, J. (1998). The Color Purple: Black women as cultural readers. In, J. Storey (Ed.), Cultural theory and popular culture: A reader (pp. 310-318).In Reader

McRobbie, A. (1997). More! New sexualities in girls and women's magazines. In McRobbie, Back to Reality?—Social Experience and Cultural Studies (pp. 190-209).....In Reader

Foucault, M. (1978). Part Three: Scientia Sexualis. The History of Sexuality, Volume I (pp. 51-73).

Week 9: Postcolonial Theory

Todorov, T. (1982). Discovery. In, T. Todorov, Conquest of America. (pp. 1-50).

Rosaldo, R. (1993). Introduction, Preface & Grief and the head hunter's rage. In R. Rosaldo, Culture and Truth (pp. ix-xix, pp. xxi-xxiv, 1-21).....In the Reader

Rose, G. (2005). Discourse Analysis II: Institutions and ways of seeing. In. Rose, Visual Methodologies. (pp. 164-187).

Week 10: Anthropology and Ethnography I

Todorov, T. (1982). Discovery. In, T. Todorov, Conquest of America. (pp. 1-50).

Rosaldo, R. (1993). The erosion of classic norms & against objectivism. In R. Rosaldo. Culture and Truth (pp. 25-45; 46-67).In the Reader

Week 11: Anthropology and Ethnography II

Todorov, T. (1982). Conquest. In, T. Todorov, The Conquest of America. (pp. 51-123).

Rosaldo, R. (1993). Imperialist nostalgia. In, Culture and Truth (68-90).....In the Reader

Foucault, M. (1978). Part Four: The Deployment of Sexuality. The History of Sexuality, Volume I (pp. 75-131).

Week 12: Cultural Studies, Transnationalism, and Globalization

McGrew, A. (1996). A global society? Hall, S., Held, D. Hubert, D. & Thompson, K. (Eds). Modernity. (pp. 466-503).....In Reader

Todorov, T. (1982). Love. In, T. Todorov, The Conquest of America. (pp. 125-182).

Week 13: Psychoanalysis and Cultural Studies

Freud, S. (1998). The Dream-work. In, J. Storey, J. (Ed.), Cultural Theory and Popular culture: A Reader (pp. 99-108). Athens, Georgia.In the Reader

Hall, S. (1996). The Question of Cultural Identity. In, Hall, S., Held, D. Hubert, D. & Thompson, K. (Eds). Modernity. (pp. 595-534)..... In Reader

Fiske, J. (1998). Semiotic methods and applications. In Fiske, Introduction to Communication Studies (pp. 101-114).

Week 14: Cultural Studies and Semiotics: Rhetoric of the Image

Todorov, T. (1982). Knowledge. In, T. Todorov, The Conquest of America. (pp. 183-242)

Bryson, N. (1999). The natural attitude. In, J. Evans & S. Hall (Eds.). Visual Culture: The Reader (pp. 23-32). London: Sage.....In the Reader

Barthes, R. (1999) Myth today. In, J. Evans & S. Hall (Eds.). Visual Culture: The Reader (pp. 51-58). London: Sage.....In the Reader

Week 15: Doing Cultural Studies Research? Methodologies I

Rose, G. (2005). Intro & Researching visual materials (ch.1). In Rose, Visual Methodologies. (pp. 1-4; pp. 5-32).

Rose, G. (2005). 'The good eye': Looking at pictures using compositional interpretation. In. Rose, Visual Methodologies. (pp. 33-53).

Foucault, M. (1978). Part Five: Right of Death and Power over Life. The History of Sexuality, Volume I (pp. 133-159).

Week 16: Methodologies II

Rose, G. (2005). Content analysis: Counting what you (think you) see. In. Rose, Visual Methodologies. (pp. 54-68).

Fiske, J. (1998). Empirical methods. In Fiske, Introduction to Communication Studies (pp. 135-163).

Czitrom, D. (1982). The rise of empirical media study: Communications research as behavioral science, 1930-1960. In, Media and the American Mind (122-146).In the Reader

Todorov, T. (1982). Epilogue. In, T. Todorov, The Conquest of America. (pp. 243-254)

Fiske, J. (1998). Structuralist theory and application. In Fiske, Introduction to Communication Studies (pp. 115-134).

Hebdige, D. (1988). Chapters 4-6, Subculture: The Meaning of Style (pp.46-99). London: Methuen.

Rose, G. (2005). Semiology: Laying bare the prejudices behind the smooth surfaces of the beautiful. In. Rose, Visual Methodologies. (pp. 69-100).