

LIT 6855 (IG66) Cultural Studies

Fall 2013

Meetings: Fridays periods 3-5 (9:35 am-12:35 pm) in TUR 4112

Instructor: Prof. Susan Hegeman, Department of English

4119 Turlington Hall

PHONE: (352) 294-2815

EMAIL: shegeman@ufl.edu

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 12:30-2:30 pm or by appointment

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is predicated on a definition of cultural studies as the study of totality, the whole "way of life" of a given group of people. There are of course competing views of the matter and challenges to such a definition, and students will have a chance to explore them, and to place this idea in the context of the history of the field more generally. But the main focus will be to consider this particular version of cultural studies and its relationship to various literary theories and methods of reading. We will consider different kinds of cultural totalities--of space, time, and scale. We will ask such questions as: What is the relationship between cultural studies as a discipline and such fields as literary and historical studies? what is the relationship between cultural studies and globalization?

The goals of this course are to introduce graduate students to the field of cultural studies and its history, explore recent contributions to the field, and present examples of a range of interpretive strategies that may be useful in the development of the students' own research.

REQUIRED BOOKS (listed in the order in which they will be read):

Richard E. Lee, *The Life and Times of Cultural Studies* (082233173X)

Raymond Williams, *Marxism and Literature* (0198760612)

Susan Stewart, *On Longing* (0822313669)

Meghan Morris, *Too Soon, Too Late* (0253211883)

Susan Buck-Morss, *Hegel, Haiti, and Universal History* (082295978X)

Eric Cazdyn, *The Already Dead* (0822352281)

Lauren Berlant, *Cruel Optimism* (0822351110)

Elizabeth Povinelli, *Empire of Love: Toward a Theory of Intimacy, Genealogy, and Carnality* (0822338890)

Haidy Geismar, *Treasured Possessions* (0822354276)

Additional readings, in the form of articles, will be made available to download.

#### ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Attendance and active participation in the seminar is expected. You should be prepared to be called upon. You will also be asked to informally introduce the readings for a given week. 33% of final grade will be based on participation.

You will hand in a total of 7500-9000 words (25-30 pages) of written work over the course of the semester. Depending on your needs and goals for the course, this may be in the form of three short papers of 8-10 pages in length, one long paper, or a long and a short paper. Students choosing to write one long paper should be in consultation with me early in the semester and show me a prospectus of 1-2 pages by November 1. I recommend that advanced students working on extended projects related to the course material write one long paper. Students whose goals are to develop a strong familiarity with the material should consider writing shorter papers of a more explicatory sort.

#### DUE DATES

September 27, November 1: recommended dates for turning in short papers.

November 1: prospectuses for longer papers due; students writing 2 or 3 short papers must turn the first paper in by this date

December 9: last day to turn in a paper and receive a grade and comments for the semester

Course policy on Incompletes: I am willing to let students take Incompletes to have more time to complete a long final research paper. However, in the interest of not excessively prolonging the work of this course, I will accept seminar papers and grade them for full credit until the end of the spring 2012 semester. Students who turn in papers after this date will not receive an "A" in the course.

#### SEMINAR SCHEDULE

August 23 Introduction: Julie Rak, "Attack of the 50 Foot Anthology! Adventures in Teaching Cultural Studies"

August 30 Richard E. Lee, *The Life and Times of Cultural Studies*

September 6 Raymond Williams, *Marxism and Literature*

September 13 Horkheimer and Adorno, "The Concept of Enlightenment" and Fredric Jameson, "Postmodernism, or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism"

September 20 class canceled

September 27 Susan Stewart, *On Longing*

October 4 Meghan Morris, *Too Soon, Too Late*

October 11 class canceled

October 18 Susan Buck-Morss, *Hegel, Haiti, and Universal History*

October 25 Eric Cazdyn, *The Already Dead*

November 1 Lauren Berlant, *Cruel Optimism*

November 8 (no class: homecoming)

November 15 Elizabeth Povinelli, Empire of Love

November 22 Haidy Geismar, Treasured Possessions

November 29 (no class: Thanksgiving)

December 9 All writing assignments due

NOTE: Schedule subject to change