

LIT 4483 (06EF)

Issues & Methods in Cultural Studies

Meetings: Tuesdays period 4 (10:40 am-11:30 am) and Thursdays periods 4-5 (10:40 am-12:35 pm) in Turlington 2318

Instructor

Prof. Susan Hegeman, Department of English

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OFFICE: 4119 Turlington Hall

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 11:45-12:45 pm and Thursdays 12:45-1:45 pm or by appointment

Course Description

This course will provide an introduction to the theory and practice of cultural studies, with an emphasis on its relationship to literary studies. The course will focus on developing students' skills in reading, analyzing, and writing about critical texts and a variety of non-literary and textual objects. We will address some classic themes and texts in cultural studies as well as some newer debates and concerns by considering a set of key concepts: culture, nature, identity, difference, ideology, value, art, and love. This course should be of interest to students studying all types of literature, literary theory, cultural studies, and popular culture.

Course Objectives

Through genuine and persistent engagement with course materials, activities, and discussions, you will:

- gain knowledge of methods of interpretation of literary and cultural objects
- gain knowledge of classic texts and problems in the field of cultural studies
- gain knowledge of emerging debates and issues in the fields of cultural studies and critical theory
- develop skills in reading and analyzing complex critical texts
- apply knowledge of the issues and methods of cultural studies in written analysis to a variety of cultural objects

Required Course Materials

All course materials—readings, syllabus, documents, assignments, online discussions, and discussion prompts—will be posted on the course's Canvas e-learning page, which can be accessed via the following website: "E-Learning Support Services" (<https://lss.at.ufl.edu>). To use Canvas, click on the blue "e-learning in Canvas" login button. You will then be asked to log in using your GatorLink username and password.

For help with Canvas, connectivity, and other computer-related issues, contact the UF Computing Help desk:

- Walk-in: HUB 132
- Phone: (352) 392-HELP (4357)
- Email: helpdesk@ufl.edu
- Canvas-related issues: <https://wiki.helpdesk.ufl.edu/FAQs/E-Learning>
- Other computing issues: <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/self-help/>

Any requests for accommodations (i.e. credit for overdue work) due to technical issues must be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem.

Course Requirements and Grading

GRADING SCALE

A	4.0	94-100	940-1000		C	2.0	73-76
A-	3.67	90-93	900-939		C-	1.67	70-72
B+	3.33	87-89	870-899		D+	1.33	67-69
B	3.0	83-86	830-869		D	1.0	63-66
B-	2.67	80-82	800-829		D-	0.67	60-62
C+	2.33	77-79	770-799		E	0.00	0-59

Attendance of final grade	100 points; 10%
Classroom participation final grade	100 points; 10% of
online participation final grade	200 points; 20% of
Paper 1 (due February 26) final grade	300 points; 30% of
Paper 2 (due April 21) final grade	300 points; 30% of

Attendance

Attendance is defined as attentive presence in the classroom. In other words, if you are very late to class or engage in non-class related activities during class time (sleeping, studying, texting, web browsing, etc.) you will be counted as absent.

University policy requires that absences be accepted with prior notice for university sponsored events (e.g., athletics) and religious holidays. Otherwise, all absences will be regarded as unexcused, regardless of their reason. In other words, I don't accept doctors' notes or other excuse from work/school notes.

Your attendance grade will be determined as follows:

0-2 absences: maximum attendance grade: 100

3 absences: maximum attendance grade: 93

4 absences: maximum attendance grade: 89

5 absences: maximum attendance grade: 86
6 absences: maximum attendance grade: 82
7 absences: maximum attendance grade: 79
8 absences: maximum attendance grade: 76
9 or more absences: automatic failure of the course

Classroom Participation

Students will be graded on the quality of their oral contributions to classroom discussion. The best grades will be given to those who offer informed, incisive, and relevant comments regarding the course readings and related discussions. Poor attendance will adversely affect students' participation grade.

Online discussions

Students are expected to post weekly to the "Discussions" section of the Canvas course website. Posts should be about 100-300 words. They can be responses to prompts from me, reflections on readings or class discussions, further research on a topic of interest to you, comments on other students' posts, or a space for developing paper topics. Students are expected to maintain the same standards of respectful exchange that they are held to in class discussions.

The online discussions will be graded as follows:

100 = 12 posts

93 = 11 posts

89 = 10 posts

86 = 9 posts

82 = 8 posts

79 = 7 posts

76 = 6 posts

72 = 5 posts

69 = 4 posts

66 = 3 posts

62 = 2 posts

59 = 1 post

0 = 0 posts

Papers

Students will write two formal academic papers, of 1800-2400 words each. The paper assignments, including topics and guidelines, will be announced on Canvas well in advance of the due dates of Feb 26 and April 21, respectively.

Papers will be graded holistically on the following criteria, in general order of emphasis:

- Argumentation: clear thesis, logical sequence of argument, logical conclusions
- Use of appropriate evidence from the texts
- Demonstrated understanding of contextual issues in relation to works discussed (accurate explication of concepts and arguments;

accurate use of terminology and historical information; accurate application to texts)

- Mechanics: punctuation, spelling, word choice and usage, sentence construction, paragraphing
- Proofreading and citations

Accommodations for Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodations. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Academic Honesty Policy

You are required to review the university's Academic Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) and the Academic Honesty Guidelines (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx>). Plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty will result in an automatic failure of the assignment and the filing of a report in your academic file.

Types of plagiarism include (but are not limited to): presenting work written in whole or in part by someone else as your own (for example submitting a paper written by a friend; a purchased or retyped paper; or one taken from a file); directly quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing from external sources without proper citations. Many students fail to fully understand that even such possibly innocent mistakes as paraphrasing the work of others or failure to give proper citation is a serious form of plagiarism. Because such mistakes have potentially serious consequences, you should talk to the Instructor if you have any questions about plagiarism, academic honesty, or proper research and citation methods.

Schedule of Readings and Discussions

Students are expected to come to class having read, and prepared to discuss, the readings listed for a given day. The schedule, located on the Canvas calendar, represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance class learning opportunities. Any such changes will be communicated early, in class and via Canvas. Students are responsible for staying informed about any changes in the class schedule by regularly consulting e-learning.

T 1/5 Introduction: syllabus review and discussion of course content and goals

Culture

R 1/7 Raymond Williams, "Culture" from *Marxism and Literature*, pp. 11-20

T 1/12 Williams, "Culture"; and Amir Saeed, "Musical Jihad"

R 1/14 Amir Saeed, "Musical Jihad"

Nature

T 1/19 Raymond Williams, "Nature" from *Keywords*, pp. 219-224

R 1/21 Jane Kuenz, "Gatorland, A Fable"

T 1/26 Catherine Malabou, Selections from *What Should We Do With Our Brain?*

R 1/28 Catherine Malabou, Selections from *What Should We Do With Our Brain?*

Identity

T 2/2 Judith Butler, "Performative Acts and Gender Constitution"

R 2/4 Judith Butler, "Performative Acts and Gender Constitution" and Eve Sedgwick, "Christmas Effects"

Difference

T 2/9 Michael Warner, "Publics and Counter-Publics"

R 2/11 Michael Warner, "Publics and Counter-Publics"

T 2/16 Cornel West, "The New Cultural Politics of Difference" in
The Cultural Studies Reader, pp. 256-270

R 2/18 Cornel West, "The New Cultural Politics of Difference"

Ideology

T 2/23 Raymond Williams, "Ideology" from *Keywords* pp. 153-157

R 2/25 Michael Rogin, "Ronald Reagan, The
Movie;" recommended: This American Life episode, "The Poetry of
Propaganda"

F 2/26 First paper is due, 5 pm

T 3/1 Spring Break

R 3/3 Spring Break

Value

T 3/8 Graeber, "A Brief Treatise on the Moral Grounds of Economic
Relations" pps. 89-126 in *Debt: the First 5,000 Years*

R 3/10 Graeber, "A Brief Treatise on the Moral Grounds of
Economic Relations" pps. 89-126 in *Debt: the First 5,000 Years*

T 3/15 Smith, "Contingencies of Value"

R 3/17 Class cancelled

T 3/22 "Contingencies of Value"

Art

R 3/24 Horkheimer and Adorno, "The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception"

T 3/29 Stallybrass and White, "Bourgeois Hysteria and the Carnavalesque" in *The Cultural Studies Reader*, pp. 382-390

R 3/31 Stallybrass and White, "Bourgeois Hysteria and the Carnavalesque"

T 4/5 Jameson, "Reification and Utopia"

R 4/7 Jameson, "Reification and Utopia"

Love

T 4/12 Alain Badiou, "Love Under Threat" from *In Praise of Love*

R 4/14 Davis and Sarlin, "'On the Risk of a New Relationality': An Interview with Lauren Berlant and Michael Hardt"

T 4/19 Davis and Sarlin, "'On the Risk of a New Relationality': An Interview with Lauren Berlant and Michael Hardt"

R 4/21 2nd paper is due, 5 pm