

LIT 4483 (09B7) Cultural Studies  
Fall 2013

Meetings: Tuesdays period 4 (10:40 am-11:30 am) and Thursdays periods 4-5 (10:40 am-12:35 pm) in Matherly 116

### **Instructor**

Prof. Susan Hegeman, Department of English  
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OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 12:30-2:30 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. Topics to be addressed: what is "culture," and what is "literature"? What is the methodology of cultural studies? How do the methods of cultural studies inform the study of literature? How do methods of literary interpretation inform our interpretation of culture? This course should be of interest to students studying all types of literature, literary theory, and cultural studies.

### **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 understanding of "literature" as a field of cultural production
- 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, blogs, assignments, and discussion prompts—will be posted on the course's Sakai e-learning page, which can be accessed via the following website: "E-Learning Support Services" (<https://lss.at.ufl.edu>). To use e-learning, click on the orange "e-learning login" button. You will then be asked to log in using your GatorLink username and password. If for some reason have trouble using your GatorLink account, go to the GatorLink website (<http://gatorlink.ufl.edu>). For help with Sakai, contact the UF Computing Help Desk at: [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu)

(352) 392-HELP - select option 2

<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

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**

Please note that as of 2009 the UF grading scale has changed. For more information, consult the 2009-10 Undergraduate Catalogue:

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>.

Attendance	10% of final grade
Classroom participation	10% of final grade
Blogging	20% of final grade
Paper 1 (due October 10)	30% of final grade
Paper 2 (due December 6)	30% of final grade

### 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: A
- 3 absences: maximum attendance grade: A-
- 4 absences: maximum attendance grade: B+
- 5 absences: maximum attendance grade: B
- 6 absences: maximum attendance grade: B-
- 7 absences: maximum attendance grade: C+
- 8 absences: maximum attendance grade: C
- 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.

### Blogging

Each student will maintain a blog on the Sakai e-learning platform for the purposes of reflecting and on class discussions and readings, and developing paper ideas. Students will also be expected to comment on other students' blog posts. Students should plan to post on their own blog once per week and comment on others' blogs twice per week. Blogs will be graded as follows:

A = a total of 14 posts plus 28 comments on others' blogs

A- = a total of 13 posts plus 27 comments

B+ = a total of 12 posts plus 25 comments

B = a total of 11 posts plus 23 comments

B- = a total of 10 posts plus 21 comments

C+ = a total of 9 posts plus 18 comments

C = a total of 8 posts plus 16 comments

C- = a total of 7 posts plus 14 comments

D+ = a total of 6 posts plus 12 comments

D = a total of 5 posts plus 10 comments

D- = a total of 4 posts plus 8 responses

### Papers

You will write 2 papers, of 1500-2100 words each. The topics will be announced on Sakai well in advance of the due dates of October 10 and December 6, respectively. Paper grades will be determined 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 use of terminology and historical information; accurate application to texts)
- Mechanics: punctuation, spelling, word choice and usage, sentence construction, paragraphing
- Proofreading and citations

### **Students with Disabilities**

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation—which must be shown to the Instructor—that specifies what kind of accommodations are needed. Accommodation must be requested before any written assignments are turned in.

### **Academic Honesty Policy**

You are required to review the university's Academic Honor Code and the Academic Honesty Guidelines, especially the discussion of plagiarism, found in the

Undergraduate Catalogue. 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 are potentially serious, 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**

SECTION 1: what is our understanding about how literary interpretation ought to work? what is our object of study? what is the goal of interpretation?

Week 1

R 8/22 introduction: syllabus review and discussion of course content and goals

Week 2

T 8/27 Keats, "Ode on a Grecian Urn" and Brooks, "The Well-Wrought Urn"

R 8/29 Keats, "Ode on a Grecian Urn" and Brooks, "The Well-Wrought Urn"

Week 3

T 9/3 Kenneth Burke, "The Rhetoric of Hitler's 'Battle'"

R 9/5 Clement Greenberg, "Avant-Garde and Kitsch"

Week 4

T 9/10 Barthes, Mythologies

R 9/12 Barthes, Mythologies

Week 5

T 9/17 Barthes, Mythologies

R 9/19 class canceled

Week 6

T 9/24 Darnton, "The Great Cat Massacre"

R 9/26 Michael Rogin, "Ronald Reagan, the Movie"

SECTION 2. Literature as a cultural object: What are the cultural contexts in which literature operates?

Week 7

T 10/1 Jane Tompkins, "Sentimental Power"

R 10/3 Stallybras and White, "Bourgeois Hysteria and the Carnavalesque"

Week 8

T 10/8 Stallybras and White, "Bourgeois Hysteria and the Carnavalesque"

R 10/10 class canceled; First paper due

Week 9

T 10/15 Horkheimer and Adorno, Culture Industry

R 10/17 class canceled

Week 10

T 10/22 Jameson, "Reification and Utopia in Mass Culture"

R 10/24 Jameson, "Reification and Utopia in Mass Culture"

Week 11

T 10/29 Michael F. Brown, "Cultures and copyrights"

SECTION 3. Readers

R 10/31 Janice Radway, Reading the Romance

Week 12

T 11/5 Stuart Hall, "Encoding, Decoding"

R 11/7 Stuart Hall, "Encoding, Decoding"

Week 13

T 11/12 Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, "Christmas Effects"

R 11/14 Mercer, "Black Hair/Style Politics"

4. Reading non-literary "texts"

T 11/19 Morris, "Things to do with Shopping Centers"

R 11/21 "How to read a landscape"

Week 15

T 11/26 Kuenz, "Gatorland: a Fable"

R 11/28 no class; Thanksgiving

Week 16

T 12/3 Kuenz, "Gatorland: a Fable"

Friday, December 6: second papers due

NOTE: This syllabus 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 e-learning. Students are responsible for staying informed about any changes in the class schedule by regularly consulting e-learning.