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Course Syllabus

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LIT 4483 Cultural Studies

Class# 26855, section 9019

Fall 2021

MEETINGS: Tuesdays Period 4 (10:40 AM - 11:30 AM) and Thursdays Period 4 - 5 (10:40 AM - 12:35 PM). Classroom: MAT 0115

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Susan Hegeman (pronouns: she/her/hers)/shegeman@ufl.edu/ 352-294-2815 / TUR 4119 / **Zoom meeting room:** <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/3087752224>

EMAIL: The best way to reach me is by email. Canvas email, or shegeman@ufl.edu. I will answer your email within 24 hours, if not sooner.

OFFICE HOURS: Friday afternoons 1-3 pm, or email me to arrange another appointment time. You may meet me in person (TUR 4119) or via Zoom (<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/3087752224>)

Course Description

As consumers of culture, we make regularly judgments of taste, preference, and value, and we rely on others' value judgments: what's this movie's freshness rating? How many stars does it have on Amazon? What did the *New York Times* say about it? And yet, in English courses, we are often somewhat nervous about questions of value and evaluation, moving past questions about whether is this novel or poem or film is *good*, or *beautiful*, or *valuable* in some way in favor of considerations of meaning, form and context. In this class, we will have the opportunity to consider this question of value, especially as it relates to cultural forms including films, music, TV, poetry and fiction. We will explore how people make day-to-day evaluations of cultural objects, and also how theorists and critics have addressed the problem of trying to make lasting claims about what is of value. Readings will be theoretical, historical, and philosophical in nature. We will read about and discuss such topics as taste, popular, mass, and avant-garde culture, subcultural styles, education, fandom, prizes and rankings, and (of course) money.

Course Objectives

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

- gain knowledge of some key texts in the fields of aesthetics, film studies, literary studies, and cultural studies
- recognize and be able to engage in key debates in aesthetic theory
- gain knowledge of the roles of various institutions in the creation of concepts of value
- develop skills in rhetorical and critical analysis of a range of texts
- develop advanced skills in critical thinking, writing, analysis, argumentation, and oral communication

Required Course Materials

You are required to view the following films outside of class. They have been placed on reserve in Library West, and I have requested that they be digitized to view online. They are also available to view for free or for a small fee from various streaming services (Google Play, Amazon Prime, Youtube).

- Moneyball*, 2011 (dir. Bennett Miller)
- Big Eyes*, 2014 (dir. Tim Burton)

All other course materials—supplementary readings, syllabus, documents, assignments, course calendar and discussion prompts—are posted on the course's Canvas e-learning website.

Tech Requirements and Policies

You are required to have access to Canvas for accessing course materials and turning in assignments.

For help with all tech issues, contact the UF Computing Help Desk:

Web: <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>
 Phone: (352) 392-HELP (4357)
 Email: helpdesk@ufl.edu
 Walk-in: HUB 132

Any requests for accommodations (e.g. 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.

Recording Policy

According to state law, students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Class Compartment Expectations

- Respectful interactions among students are expected. Participation grades will be negatively affected by a failure to adhere to professional, polite, scholarly, and respectful communication in all formats, both written and oral.
- Per university policy**, you are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated against COVID.
- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment: <https://coronavirus.uflhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.
- If you get sick, you are expected to stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect](https://uflhealth.org/screen-test-protect) website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect](https://uflhealth.org/screen-test-protect) offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Continue to regularly visit [coronavirus.UFHealth.org](https://coronavirus.uflhealth.org) and coronavirus.ufl.edu for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.
- If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.



Course Requirements and Grading

GRADING SCALE

A	4.0	94-100	940-1000	C	2.0	73-76	730-769
A-	3.67	90-93	900-939	C-	1.67	70-72	700-729
B+	3.33	87-89	870-899	D+	1.33	67-69	670-699
B	3.0	83-86	830-869	D	1.0	63-66	630-669
B-	2.67	80-82	800-829	D-	0.67	60-62	600-629
C+	2.33	77-79	770-799	E	0.00	0-59	0-599

BREAKDOWN OF FINAL GRADE

Attendance	100 points; 10% of final grade
Participation	100 points; 10% of final grade
Paper 1	200 points; 20% of final grade
Paper 2	200 points; 20% of final grade
Paper 3	200 points; 20% of final grade
Paper 4	200 points; 20% of final grade

Attendance (100 points; 10% of final grade)

University policy requires that absences be accepted with prior notice for university sponsored events (e.g., athletics) and religious holidays. I will also accept medical excuses with a doctor's note or via [UF Health's Screen, Test, Protect](https://uflhealth.org/screen-test-protect). Students are expected to contact the instructor if they anticipate extended medical absences so that we can work on a plan to keep up with the class.

Your attendance grade will be determined as follows:

- 0-2 absences: 100 points (A)
- 3 absences: 93 points (A-)
- 4 absences: 89 points (B+)
- 5 absences: 86 points (B)
- 6 absences: 82 points (B-)
- 7 absences: 79 points (C+)
- 8 absences: 76 points (C)
- 9 absences: 72 points (C-)
- 10 or more absences: automatic failure of the course

Classroom Participation (100 points; 10% of final grade)

In this class, we will all learn by respectfully listening to, reading, and engaging with each others' ideas. It is therefore expected that students come to class prepared to discuss the material assigned for that day. Students will be graded on the quality of their oral and written contributions to classroom discussion. Participation includes oral and chat contributions to class discussions and comments on the class discussion board in Canvas. 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 effect students' participation grade.

Papers (200 points each; 20% of final grade)

Students will be asked to write four 1000-1500 word papers. The paper assignments, including topics and guidelines, will be announced on Canvas well in advance of the due dates of September 10, October 15, November 12, and December 10.

Academic Honesty Policy

Students are required to review the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>). Plagiarism or any other violation of the Student Honor and Conduct Code will result in an automatic failure of the assignment. A report will be filed with the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Office. <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-honor-code/>

According to the Student Conduct Code,

- "Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:
- Stealing, misquoting, insufficiently paraphrasing, or patch-writing.
 - Self-plagiarism, which is the reuse of the Student's own submitted work, or the simultaneous submission of the Student's own work, without the full and clear acknowledgment and permission of the Faculty to whom it is submitted.
 - Submitting materials from any source without proper attribution.
 - Submitting a document, assignment, or material that, in whole or in part, is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment the Student did not author."

Accommodations for Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>). Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor. Students needing accommodations should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

- [UF Health's Screen, Test, Protect](https://uflhealth.org/screen-test-protect): for COVID testing, vaccination, and information.
- U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend are in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>; or 352 392-1575.
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.
- University Police Department: 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtm>.
- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://www.crc.ufl.edu/>.
- Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>.
- Writing Studio, 2215 Turlington Hall, 846-1138. Help with brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.
- Disability Resource Center, Reid Hall, 392-8565. Help with academic and other accommodations. <https://disability.ufl.edu/>

Schedule of Readings and Discussions

The course will consist of five Modules:

- [Types of Value: aesthetic, moral, economic, social, historical/cultural](#)
- [Taste: where evaluation and the body meet](#)
- [Evaluation: absolute vs. relative standards; qualitative vs. quantitative approaches](#)
- [Aesthetic categories and distinctions](#)
- [Institutions, value, and evaluation](#)

In each module there is a detailed schedule of readings, discussion topics, and assignments. This represents my current plans for readings, assignments and discussions. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change based on the interests and needs of the class as a whole. 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 the Canvas course page.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Fri Sep 10, 2021	Paper #1: Rhetorical analysis of documents related to "value."	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 15, 2021	Paper #2: Controversies in evaluation	due by 11:59pm
Fri Nov 12, 2021	Paper #3: Aesthetic categories	due by 11:59pm
Fri Dec 10, 2021	Paper #4: Institutions, values, and evaluation	due by 11:59pm