

## English 2017 Sec 002: Reading Popular Culture

**Meeting room and times:** Somerville House 3345, Tuesdays, 6-9pm

**Professor:** Dr. T. Phu

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Room 2G02E - Arts and Humanities Building (formerly the old Ivey Building)

(519) 661-2111 ext. 85806

**Office hours:** Wednesdays, 9am to noon and by appointment, if these hours conflict with your schedule.

**TA Office Hours:** dates, times, and rooms TBA

**Course description:** How do we make popular culture? How does popular culture, in turn, shape or influence our ways of thinking? This course introduces students to interdisciplinary approaches to the study of popular culture and provides critical tools for “reading” its meanings. Your survey will include, but by no means be restricted to, such cultural *texts* as film, TV, and graphic novels, as well as such everyday *practices* as eating, walking, playing, and shopping.

**Objectives:** By exploring these texts and practises, our objectives are:

- to understand the historical contexts for the production and consumption of popular culture.
- to acquire critical tools for cultural analysis.

**Outcomes:** Through close analysis of examples drawn from popular culture, you will be able to:

- think critically about cultural texts and practices.
- apply cultural studies concepts in order to read and interpret popular culture.

### Evaluation:

Participation in OWL discussions	(ongoing; questions posted in first half of each term)	25%
Quiz I	1 hour in-class (Nov. 25)	5%
Quiz II	1 hour in-class (Mar. 24)	5%
Mid-Term Test I	2 hours in-class on Nov.11th	15%
Midterm Test II	2 hours in-class on February 24th	15%
Final Exam	date and room set by Registrar	35%

**\*There is no December exam; please disregard any notice from the registrar’s office stating otherwise.**

### Required Reading:

*Popular Culture: A User’s Guide, 3rd Edition* (eds. Susie O’Brien and Imre Szeman)

*Black Hole* (Charles Burns)

*The Hunger Games* (Suzanne Collins)

*Barefoot Gen: A Cartoon Story of Hiroshima, Vol. 1* (Keiji Nakazawa)

Books are available at the UCC Bookstore. Copies are also on 1 day reserve at Weldon Library.

**Films & TV Shows:** on reserve at IG 23 (in the Arts and Humanities Building, aka Old Ivey Building), and, time-permitting, to be screened during regularly scheduled classes. Students are required to watch films in preparation for lectures, if there is no time to screen them in class. Selections may include: *Boren (The Bridge)*; *Copyright Criminals*; *Bridesmaids*; *Exit through the Gift Shop*; *Game of Thrones*; *Girls*; *Godzilla*; *Rubi*; *Skyfall*; *The Walking Dead*; *West of Memphis*.