

Department of English and Writing Studies

Introduction to Cultural Studies

English 3201F (001)

Fall 2020

Instructor: Nigel Joseph

Delivery type: Online

Office hours: (Online) Fridays 10 am-1 pm

Antirequisites: The former English 2250F/G.

Prerequisites: At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020-1999 or permission of the Department.

Course Description

The course familiarizes students with some of the most influential essays and articles that helped launch Cultural Studies as a discipline. Students will learn how to analyze cultural artefacts and genres in a scholarly fashion and will become familiar with such concepts as ideology and hegemony. They will also become familiar with debates about high culture and mass culture, and with theories about the effects of cultural discourses on gender, race and class.

Objectives:

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- Identify typical themes and approaches in the field of Cultural Studies
- Analyze a cultural text in terms of ideology and/or political intentions and effects
- Read a cultural text in terms of how it confers cultural capital

Course Materials

Textbook (required): *Cultural Studies Reader* (Routledge) available at The Book Store

General description of methods of instruction: Since this is (for most of us) our first venture into the terrain of online pedagogy, we will do a certain amount of learning as we go. We will have a few Zoom lectures/conferences, but attendance for these is not mandatory, and no marks will be assigned either for attendance or participation (dates and times for these will be fixed after the course begins). Lectures will be posted in Voicethread. Key points from the lectures will be emphasized in the Powerpoints that accompany the Voicethread lectures. The lectures will be asynchronous (you can access them at any time that works for you).

E-mail queries: I will be checking for your messages in the forums or at my e-mail every day, so you can expect fairly quick responses to your queries. I really don't mind how often you might wish to check on something with me, so feel free to ask questions and seek clarifications.

Office hours will be held every week, and will, of course, be synchronous. Office hours will be held on Fridays, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Collaborate (OWL). If those hours don't work for individual students, they can e-mail me and we'll fix up another time. You may comment on the lectures, and/or seek clarifications **in the forums, on the messages site on OWL**, or (if you'd rather talk to me one-on-one, **by email**). I will be checking for your messages in the forums or at my e-mail every day, so you can expect fairly quick responses to your queries. I really don't mind how often you might wish to check on something with me, so feel free to ask questions and seek clarifications. **Please check the announcement section** on OWL for updates. Since the course is largely online and we won't have much of an opportunity for face-to-face interactions, a lot of the interactions will take place on the forums.

Methods of Evaluation

Test:	10%
Forum comments:	20%
Assignment 1 (written):	20%
Assignment 2 (presentation):	20%
Final exam:	30%

The test and the final exam will have to be submitted within a specified time-slot. For the test you will have **four hours** to submit, and for the exam (modelled on the older 3-hour examination) you will have **ten hours**. Topics for the assignments will be put up after the course begins. **All submissions (assignments, forum comments, tests, final examinations) will be online** (on OWL or to my e-mail address, as specified).

Forum Responses: You must comment on **at least four of the texts** in the course in your forum-comments (you can comment on 6, or on all 8, and I will use the best 4). It is probably best to comment on all the texts, to be on the safe side. You must comment **in the thread** that will be made for each text. You can comment on the text, on another student's comment, or on a secondary critical reading. You *must write at least two separate comments to get a grade for that text*. Each comment must be at least 150 words. You can write more comments, of course; in fact, I would advise you to write more comments, since that will both stimulate discussion and make it easier for me to grade your output. It makes sense to save your responses for a period after you have listened to the lectures.

Assignments: Assignment 1 will be a straightforward written assignment of 3000 words, with at least three secondary sources. Assignment 2 will be a presentation: it can take the form of a Powerpoint-aided talk (on Voicethread), a filmed lecture (at least 10 minutes), or a recorded audio-lecture. The class will be encouraged to comment on the presentations.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are temporarily unable to meet academic requirements (e.g. attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) may submit a self-reported absence form online (available on your Student Center) provided that the absence is 48 hours or less and the other conditions specified in the

Senate policy are met. Students can self-report only two absences per academic year. See policy here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf.

Students whose absences are expected to last longer than 48 hours, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds) to Academic Counselling. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. The Student Medical Certificate is available online at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation.

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western:
<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Timetable

Week 1	Cultural Studies and Its Theoretical Legacies <i>Stuart Hall</i>
Week 2	The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception <i>Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer</i>
Week 3	The Work of Art in the Age of Its Technological Reproduction <i>Walter Benjamin</i>
Week 4	Imagined Communities: Nationalism's Cultural Roots <i>Benedict Anderson</i>
Week 5	Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy <i>Arjun Appadurai</i>
Week 6	The Institutional Matrix of Romance <i>Janice A. Radway</i>
Week 7	Upping the Anti (Sic) In Feminist Theory <i>Teresa de Lauretis</i>
Week 8	Subversive Bodily Acts <i>Judith Butler</i>
Week 9	The Crises of 'Race' and Raciology <i>Paul Gilroy</i>
Week 10	'Naked Bodies': Experimenting with Intimate Relations Among Migrant Workers in South China <i>Eric Ma and Hau Ling 'Helen' Cheng</i>
Week 11	The Net and Multiple Realities <i>Jodi Dean</i>
Week 12	Review