

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

PhD QUALIFYING EXAMINATION READING LIST

English 9922(SF)/ 9942 (PF)

CULTURAL STUDIES

In order to develop a wide-ranging competency to teach and research in the field of cultural studies, candidates will prepare a reading list according to the instructions and requirements below.

1. Instructions

i. Secondary Field Exam

Texts should be selected from the suggested titles below. Students are strongly encouraged to include bolded titles / authors on their list. Approximately 40 titles should be selected from the “Core Texts” section (these include theoretically foundational essays and books as well as material from major “schools of thought”) and 10 titles from the subfields. The final list should consist of a total of 50 titles.

Please note that a title is considered a full-length book. In cases where students opt for a selection consisting of excerpts from books or chapters, 4 excerpted chapters or 4 articles (from the same or different critics) will be considered the equivalent of one title. When including a selection, students are required to include the specific excerpts they have chosen on their reading list.

ii. Primary Field Exam

Texts should be selected from the suggested titles below. Students are strongly encouraged to include bolded titles / authors on their list. Approximately 40 titles should be selected from the “Core Texts” section (these include theoretically foundational essays and books as well as material from major “schools of thought”). An additional 25 titles should be selected from the subfields. Although students are required to be familiar with all subfields, they should also designate, on their list, a subfield for special focus and will be responsible for at least 5 titles within this subfield (the rest of the 20 titles will come from the other subfields). This selection process must be undertaken with guidance from the examining

committee and is subject to their approval. The final list should consist of a total of 65 titles.

Please note that a title is considered a full-length book. In cases where students opt for a selection consisting of excerpts from books or chapters, 4 excerpts or articles (by the same or different critics) will be considered the equivalent of one title. When including a selection, students are required to include the specific excerpts they have chosen on their reading list.

This list will be revised by the examination committee regularly to ensure the completeness of each section.

2. Exam Structure

- i. Students must define, contextualize, and discuss 5 out of 8 keywords in cultural studies. These keywords are drawn from theoretical foundations, schools, and modules sections of the lists. Persuasive answers will provide a thorough explanation of the concept as well as an analysis of the ways each term has been reshaped in critical debates.
- ii. General theory questions ranging from works across the list.
- iii. For the secondary field exam, critical questions focusing on any part of the list.
For the primary field exam, critical questions from any part of the list or focusing on the special subfield selected by students, drawn from Part B of the list.

All three sections of the exam are weighted equally toward the final grade.

3. Recommended Secondary Sources

Please consult examining committee members for recommended readings. Helpful references include introductory material from textbooks in Cultural Studies.

CORE TEXTS

THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS

Agamben, Giorgio. *Homo Sacer*.

---. *State of Exception*.

Ahmed, Sara. *The Cultural Politics of Emotion*.

Althusser, Louis. "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses"

Austin, J.L. *How to Do Things with Words*.

Barthes, Roland.

One of the following from:

Mythologies.

Image-Music-Text.

The Pleasure of the Text.

Baudrillard, Jean. "The Precession of Simulacra"

---. *For a Critique of the Political Economy of the Sign*.

Bourdieu, Pierre. One of the following from:

The Field of Cultural Production. Cambridge: Polity Press

---. "The Forms of Capital."

Butler, Judith. One of:

Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity.

---. *Frames of War: When is Life Grievable?*

Debord, Guy. *Society of the Spectacle*

deCerteau, Michel. *The Practice of Everyday Life*.

Deleuze, Gilles and Felix Guattari. *A Thousand Plateaus*.

Derrida, Jacques. "Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences"

---. *Of Grammatology*

Fanon, Frantz.

One of:

Black Skin, White Masks

The Wretched of the Earth

Foucault, Michel. One of the following from:

The History of Sexuality, Volume 1

---. *Discipline and Punish*.

---. *The Birth of the Clinic*.

---. "Society Must be Defended"

Freud, Sigmund. *Civilization and Its Discontents*.

Geertz, Clifford. *The Interpretation of Cultures*.

Gramsci, Antonio. *The Prison Notebooks*.

Habermas, Jürgen. *Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere*.

Haraway, Donna. One of the following from:

“A Cyborg Manifesto”

---. *Modest Witness@Second Millenium.*

---. *When Species Meet..*

Kristeva, Julia. *Powers of Horror.*

Lacan, Jacques. *Ecrits.*

Lefebvre, Henri. *Critique of Everyday Life*, vol 1.

Levi-Strauss, Claude. “The Raw and the Cooked”

---. “The Structural Study of Myth”

Lyotard, Jean-Francois. *The Postmodern Condition.*

Marx, Karl. 4 chapters from among the following:

Capital, Vol. 1

---. *The German Ideology.*

Mbembe, Achille. “Necropolitics.”

Puar, Jasbir. *Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times.*

Saussure, Ferdinand. *Course in General Linguistics.*

Sedgwick, Eve Kosofsky. One of the following from:

Between Men.

---. *Epistemology of the Closet.*

Weber, Max. *The Protestant Work Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism.*

Major Schools of Thought

BRITISH

Arnold, Matthew. *Culture and Anarchy.*

Brantlinger, Patrick. *Crusoe’s Footprints: Cultural Studies in Britain and America.*

Chambers, Iain. *Urban Rhythms: Pop Music and Popular Culture.*

Diawara, Manthia. “Cultural Studies/Black Studies”

Dyer, Richard. *White.*

Easthope, Anthony. *From Literary to Cultural Studies*

Eliot, T.S. *Notes Towards a Definition of Culture.*

Gilroy, Paul. One of the following from:

There Ain’t No Black in the Union Jack.

---. *The Black Atlantic.*

Hall, Stuart and Tony Jefferson. *Resistance through Rituals: Youth Subcultures in Post-War Britain*

Hall, Stuart. ‘Cultural studies: Two paradigms,’ *Media, Culture and Society*, 2, 57-72.

---. "Encoding/Decoding." In *Culture, Media, Language*. Edited by Stuart Hall, et al.

London: Hutchinson, 1980.

---. Two chapters from *Policing the Crisis*

Hebdige, Dick. *Subculture: The Meaning of Style.*

Hobsbawm, Eric. *The Invention of Tradition*

Hoggart, Richard. *The Uses of Literacy.*

Leavis, F.R. *Mass Civilization and Minority Culture.*

McRobbie, Angela. (1994). *Postmodernism and Popular Culture.* London: Routledge.

McRobbie, Angela, and Mica Nava, eds. *Gender and Generation.* London: Macmillan, 1984.

Mercer, Kobena, ed. *Welcome to the Jungle: New Positions in Black Cultural Studies*

Stratton, Jon and Ien Ang. "On the Impossibility of a Global Cultural Studies: 'British' Cultural Studies in an 'International' Frame."

Thompson, E.P. *The Making of the English Working Class.*

Williams, Raymond. Choose one title from among:

Culture and Society: 1780-1950.

Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society.

FRANKFURT SCHOOL

Adorno, Theodor and Max Horkheimer. *The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception*

Benjamin, Walter. One of:

Illuminations.

The Arcades Project.

Lowenthal, Leo. *Literature, Popular Culture, and Society.*

Mercuse, Herbert. *One Dimensional Man.*

U.S. CULTURAL STUDIES

Baker, Houston A. Jr., *Black Studies, Rap and the Academy*

Berlant, Lauren. One of:

The Queen of America Goes to Washington City: Essays on Sex and Citizenship.

Cruel Optimism.

Byrd, Jodi. *The Transit of Empire: Indigenous Critiques of Colonialism.*

Cvetkovich, Ann. *An Archive of Feelings: Trauma, Sexuality, and Lesbian Public Cultures.*

Fawaz, R. *The New Mutants: Superheroes and the Radical Imagination of American Comics.*

hooks, bell. "Postmodern Blackness"; *Black Looks: Race and Representation*

Gates, Henry Louis. *The Signifying Monkey*

Grossberg, Lawrence, Cary Nelson and Paula Treichler, eds., *Cultural Studies*
(selections)

Guillory, John. *Cultural Capital*

Halberstam, J. Jack. One of:

Female Masculinity

The Queer Art of Failure.

Jameson, Fredric. *Postmodernism, or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism.*

Kelley, Robin D.G. *Yo' Mama's Disfunktional! Fighting the Culture Wars in Urban America*
Lipsitz, George. *Time Passages: Collective Memory and American Popular Culture*.

Lott, Eric. *Love and Theft*.

Lowe, Lisa. One of:

Immigrant Acts: On Asian American Cultural Politics.

The Intimacies of Four Continents.

Manalansan, Martin. (ed.), *Eating Asian America: A Food Studies Reader*

Moten, Fred. *In the Break: The Aesthetics of the Black Radical Tradition*.

Munoz, Jose E. *Cruising Utopia: The Then and There of Queer Futurity*

Serlin, David. *Replaceable You: Engineering the Body in Postwar America*

Thompson, Rosemary Garland. *Extraordinary Bodies: Figuring Disability in American Culture and Literature*

Veblen, Thorstein. *Theory of the Leisure Class: An Economic Study in the Evolution of Institutions*.

Williams, Linda. *Hard Core: Power, Pleasure, and the "Frenzy of the Visible."*

CANADA (please note: many of the essays listed below may be found in *Canadian Cultural Studies: A Reader*, Duke UP)

Bannerji, Himani. "On the Dark Side of the Nation: Politics of Multiculturalism and the State of 'Canada.'"

Coulthard, Glen Sean. *Red Skin, White Masks: Rejecting the Colonial Politics of Recognition*. (selections)

Clarke, George Elliot. "Must All Blackness be American? Locating Canada in Borden's 'Tightrope time,' or Nationalizing Gilroy's *The Black Atlantic*"

Day, Iyko. "Introduction" to *Alien Capital: Asian Racialization and the Logic of Settler Colonial Capitalism*

Dickinson, Peter. "Introduction" to *Here is Queer: Nationalisms, Sexualities, and the Literatures of Canada*.

Frye, Northrop. "Conclusion to the *Literary History of Canada*"

Hutcheon, Linda. *The Canadian Postmodern*. (selections)

Innis, Harold. *The Strategy of Culture*. (selections)

Laberge, Yves. "Are Cultural Studies an Anglo-Saxon Paradigm? Reflections on Cultural Studies in Francophone Networks"

McLuhan, Marshall. "Canada as Counter-Environment" and "The Medium is the Message" Miki, Roy. *Broken Entries: Race, Subjectivity, Writing*. (selections)

Mookerjee, Sourayan, Imre Szeman, and Gail Faurschou. "Between Empires: On Cultural Studies in Canada"

Mitchell, Katharyne. "In Whose Interest? Transnational Capital and the Production of Multiculturalism in Canada"

Simpson, Audra. *Mohawk Interruptus: Political Life across the Borders of Settler States*. (selections)

Taylor, Charles. *Multiculturalism*.

Walcott, Rinaldo. *Black Like Who: Writing Black Canada*. (selections)

Globalization, Empire and International Contexts

Abu-Lughod, Lila (ed.). *Remaking Women: Feminism and Modernity in the Middle East*.

Ang, Ien. 1998. Can one say no to Chineseness? Pushing the limits of the diasporic paradigm. *Boundary 2* 25.3: 223-42.

Appadurai, Arjun. *Modernity at Large: The Cultural Dimensions of Globalization*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1996. Pp. 27-47.

Bauman, Zygmunt *Globalization*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Cheah, Pheng. 'Spectral nationality: The living on [sur-vie] of the postcolonial nation in neocolonial globalization.' *Boundary 2* 26.3: 225-52.

Chen, Kuan-Hsing. *Asia as Method: Toward Deimperialization*.

Chow, Rey. *Writing Diaspora: Tactics of Intervention in Contemporary Cultural Studies*.

Harvey, David. *The Condition of Postmodernity: An Enquiry into the Origins of Cultural Change*.

Jin, Dal Yong. *New Korean Wave: Transnational Cultural Power in the Age of Social Media*

Manalansan, Martin. *Global Divas: Filipino Gay Men in the Diaspora*

Trinh T. Minh-ha. *Woman, Native, Other: Writing Postcoloniality and Feminism*

McClintock, Anne. *Imperial Leather*

Said, Edward. One of:

Orientalism

Culture and Imperialism.

Gayatri Spivak. *In Other Worlds*.

SUBFIELDS

Popular Culture/Everyday Life

Ang, Ien. *Watching Dallas: Soap Opera and the Melodramatic Imagination*. London: Methuen, 1985.

Chang, Jeff. *Can't Stop/Won't Stop: A History of the Hip-Hop Generation*.

Chow, Rey. "Listening Otherwise, Music Miniaturized"

Chute, Hilary. One of:

Disaster Drawn: Visual Witness, Comics, and Documentary Form.

Why Comics? From Underground to Everywhere.

Jenkins, Henry. *Textual Poachers: Television Fans & Participatory Culture*.

McCloud, Scott. *Reinventing Comics: How Imagination and Technology Are Revolutionizing an Art Form*.

Modleski, Tina. *Loving with a Vengeance: Mass-produced Fantasies for Women*

Morris, Meaghan. One of:

“Banality in Cultural Studies”

---. “On the Beach.”

---. “Things to Do with Shopping Centres”

Penley, Constance. *NASA/Trek: Popular Science and Sex in America*.

Radway, Janice A. *Reading the Romance: Women, Patriarchy, and Popular Literature*.

Willis, Susan. *A Primer for Everyday Life*

Visual culture/ Film Studies

Azoulay, Ariella. *The Civil Contract of Photography*

Baudrillard, Jean. *Simulations*

Berger, John. *Ways of Seeing*

Dolan, Jill, *The Feminist Spectator as Critic* (1988); *Presence and Desire* (1993)

Hariman, Robert and John Louis Lucaites, *No Caption Needed: Iconic Photographs, Public Culture, and Liberal Democracy*.

Mascoe, Joseph. *The Theatre of Operations: National Security Affect from the Cold War to the War on Terror*.

Mirzoeff, Nicholas, *The Right to Look*.

Mulvey, Laura. “Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema.”

Hamid Naficy, “Situating Accented Cinema”

Silverman, Kaja. *The Threshold of the Visible World*.

Performance Studies

Alvarez, Natalie. *Immersion in Cultural Difference*.

Blau, Herbert. *Take Up the Bodies: Theater at the Vanishing Point*.

Carlson, Marvin. *Places of Performance*.

Jackson, Shannon, *Professing Performance*.

Phelan, Peggy. *Unmarked*.

Roach, Joseph. *Cities of the Dead: Circum-Atlantic Performance*.

Schneider, Rebecca. *Performing Remains*.

Schechner, Richard. *Performance Studies: an Introduction*.

Taylor, Diana. *The Archive and the Repertoire*.

Young, Harvey. *Embodying Black Performance*.

Warner, Michael. *Publics and Counterpublics*.

Munoz, Jose Esteban. *Disidentifications: Queers of Color and the Performance of Politics*.

Posthumanism

Agamben, Giorgio. *The Open. Man and Animal.*

Bennett, Jane. *Vibrant Matter*

Braidotti, Rosi. *The Posthuman*

Colebrook, Claire. *Death of the PostHuman*

Derrida, Jacques. *The Animal that Therefore I Am.*

Haraway, Donna. "A Manifesto for Cyborgs"

Hayles, N. Katherine. One of:

How We Became Posthuman.

---. . *Writing Machines.*

Herbrechter, Stefan. *Posthumanism: A Critical Analysis*

Lyotard, Jean-Francois. "Can Thought Go On Without a Body?" in *The Inhuman*

McLuhan, Marshall. One of:

Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man.

---. *The Gutenberg Galaxy*

---. "The Medium is the Message"

Meillassoux, Quentin. *After Finitude*

Saco, Diana. *Cybering Democracy: Public Space and the Internet.*

Thacker, Eugene. *In the Dust of This Planet.*

Nakamura, Lisa. *Digitizing Race: Visual Cultures of the Internet.*

Virilio, Paul. *Art of the Motor.*

---. *Politics of the Very Worst.*

Wolfe, Carey. One of:

Animal Rites.

---. *What is Posthumanism?*

Departmental regulations regarding PhD comprehensive exams can be found @ the following site: <https://www.uwo.ca/english/graduate/phd/index.html>.