

SYLLABUS

Title of the Course: IED 258 (01) British Popular Culture
Course Credits: 3 (national), 6 ECTS
Course Status: Required
Semester: Spring 2012
Instructor: Dr. Sinan Akıllı
Office Hours: Walk-in on Fridays 10:00-12:00
Campus Phone: 0 312 297 8475 – Ext. 133
Email Address: sinanakilli@gmail.com
Class Schedule: Mon. 10:00 – 12:45, Room: B8/ZK/A03
Course Web Site: -

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION (Aim and Content):

This course aims to familiarise students with the key theoretical concepts, the historical background and contemporary state of Popular Culture, with special emphasis on British Popular Culture. For this end, the course focuses on a detailed study of British Popular Culture through the discussions of key scholarly articles and selected texts, both literary and non-literary.

II. COURSE OUTLINE

- Week I (Feb. 13) Intro, Definitions of ‘Culture,’ ‘High Culture,’ ‘Mass Culture’ and ‘Popular Culture’
- Week II (Feb.20) Related Terminology (Signification, Representation, Codes, Discourse, Ideology, Hegemony, Power, Subversion, Subject, Identity)
- Week III (Feb. 27) History of (British) Popular Culture. Teratology, witchcraft, astrology, British Popular Culture in the 18th and 19th centuries
- Week IV (Mar. 05) Production/Consumption and the Popular
- Week V (Mar. 12) MIDTERM I
- Week VI (Mar. 19) Hegemony and the Carnavalesque (Gramsci, Bakhtin)
- Week VII (Mar. 26) Popularization of the Marginal, the Case of Heavy Metal
- Week VIII (Apr. 02) Subcultures (British and Comparative)
- Week IX (Apr. 09) Sports and British Popular Culture
- Week X (Apr. 16) MIDTERM II
- Week XI (Apr. 23) Official Holiday, No Class
- Week XII (Apr. 30) Internet, Social Media, and Popular Culture
- Week XIII (May 07) British Food and Drink Culture
- Week XIV (May 14) TV Culture: Televised Acculturation and Consumer Society

III. METHOD OF INSTRUCTION: Lectures, class discussions, and student presentations.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND STUDENT CONDUCT: Class attendance is obligatory and failure to attend one-third or more of the class hours will result in an F1. “No shows” on exam or group presentation days will not be compensated for by assignment of extra work, so do not ask for it. If a student has documented excuse accepted by the Faculty Academic Board in accordance with University Regulations, a make-up exam will be given. Absence on one’s group presentation day will result in the taking away of 20% of presentation

score for the individual(s). Questions, discussion, and disagreement are all encouraged in this class. However, any kind of disruptive behavior will never be tolerated.

Likewise, academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. This includes all forms of plagiarism, cheating on assignments or exams, turning in work that has been written partially or entirely by someone else (this includes websites), failing to appropriately represent and document sources, fabricating information or citations, or helping another student commit an act of academic dishonesty.

V. ASSESSMENT: There will be two midterm examinations (15% each), one 15-minute group presentation (10%), and a final exam (50%), and class participation will make up 10% of the final grade. For a passing grade, students must get at least 50 out of 100 in the final exam. Up to 10% of the total score in each exam will be deducted for poor English (e.g. bad grammar, worse spelling, etc.).

The topics for 15-minute group presentations will be assigned by the instructor at the beginning of the semester. Presentations will start in Week IV and consist of the reflections of group members on the assigned subject/text after a brief introduction. Presentations must be based on student reflections and submitted in hard copy form (between 7-10 pages long, typed, double-spaced, grammatically correct), which must fully comply with *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th edition, on the final exam date. Up to 10% of the total score in submitted papers will be deducted for poor English, and up to 20% for incompliance with the *MLA* style. Failure to submit papers on the final exam date will result in the automatic taking away of 10 points out of 100 for each successive weekday until the paper is submitted (maximum of 3 weekdays are tolerated).

VI. REQUIRED READING: There is no textbook for this course. Necessary reading material and handouts will be provided by the instructor, to be photocopied by students, at least a week before the class meeting at which a subject will be studied.

- Week I:** Storey, John. *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture*. "What is Popular Culture?"
- Week II:** Hall, Stuart. *Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices*. "The Work of Representation."
Althusser, Louis. "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses"
- Week III:** From *Malleus Maleficarum*, The Great and Wonderful Predictions of William Lilly
- Week IV:** Adorno, Theodor, and Max Horkheimer. "The Culture Industry."
Fiske, John. From *Reading the Popular*. "Understanding Popular Culture."
- Week VI:** Stallybrass, Peter, and Allon White. "Bourgeois Hysteria and the Carnavalesque."
"Bakhtinian Literary Criticism"
- Week VII:** Straw, Will. "Characterizing Rock Music Culture: The Case of Heavy Metal."
- Week VIII:** Winders, James A. "Reggae, Rastafarians and Revolution." (Black-British)
Akilli, Sinan. "British Youth on Drugs: A Reading of Irvine Welsh's *Trainspotting* in the Light of Subculture Theory." (Scottish)
Kaya, Ayhan. "Cultural Bricolage and 'Double Diasporic Cultural Identity' amongst Turkish Hip-Hop Youth in Berlin." (Turkish)
- Week IX:** Bourdieu, Pierre. "How can One be a Sports Fan?"
Abanazır, Can. "Hooligans? What Hooligans?"
Simons, John. "The Englishness of English Cricket"
- Week XII:** Chandler, Daniel. "Homepages and the Construction of Identities on the Web."
Hewitt, Giles. "Flash Mobs: A New Social Phenomenon?"
- Week XIII:** Everitt, John C. "Bitter-Sweet Conversions: Changing Times for the British Pub."
Erol, Burçin. "British Colonial Expansion and the Expansion of British Food Culture 1500-1800."
- Week XIV:** Williams, Raymond. "Advertising: The Magic System."
Fiske, John. From *Understanding Popular Culture*. "Commodities and Culture."