

Hacettepe University
Faculty of Letters
Department of English Language and Literature
SYLLABUS

Title of the Course: IED 261 (01) Introduction to Cultural Studies

Course Credits: 3 (national), 5 ECTS

Course Status: Required

Semester: Fall 2015

Instructor: Dr. Sinan AKILLI

Office Hours: TBD

Email Address: sinanakilli@gmail.com

Class Schedule: Wed. 09:00-11:50 – B2/203

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION (Aim and Content):

The course aims to present students an overview of the historical and theoretical development of Cultural Studies up to the present with specific emphasis on key concepts and issues of the field through introduction of the works and the views of prominent British and non-British theorists. For the illustration of the methodology, strategy and approach that are used in “doing cultural studies,” some selected examples addressing the main themes and topics in British Cultural Studies will be studied and discussed.

II. COURSE OUTLINE

Week I (Sept. 16) General Introduction: What is Culture, High/Mass/Popular Culture? What is Cultural Studies?

Turner, G. “The Idea of Cultural Studies” in *British Cultural Studies: An Introduction*, 2002.

From Arnold, M. “Sweetness and Light” in *Culture and Anarchy*, 1869.

Week II (Sept. 23) Official holiday, no class.

Week III (Sept. 30) British Cultural Studies, Cultural Studies in Turkey

Turner, G. “The British Tradition: A Short History” in *British Cultural Studies: An Introduction*, 2002.

Umunç, H. “Instituting British Cultural Studies in Turkey: Paradigms and Pragmatics.” *Journal of English Literature and British Culture* 5 (1996): 123-131.

Week IV (Oct. 07) Culture, Ideology, and Hegemony

Turner, G. “Ideology” in *British Cultural Studies: An Introduction*, 2002.

From Althusser, L. “Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses” in *Critical Theory since Plato*. Eds. Hazard Adams and Leroy Searle.

Walton, David. “How to Dominate the Masses without Resorting to Inquisition:

Antonio Gramsci and Hegemony Theory” in *Introducing Cultural Studies: Learning through Practice*.

Week V (Oct. 14) Cultural Capital

Bourdieu, P. “The Forms of Capital”

Week VI (Oct. 21) Culture and Representation

Giles, J. and Tim Middleton. “Representation.” in *Studying Culture: A Practical Introduction*, 1999.

Hall, S. “Introduction” and “The Work of Representation” in *Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices*.

Week VII (Oct. 28) MIDTERM I

Week VIII (Nov. 04) Discourse, Power, Knowledge

Barthes, R. “Myth Today” in *Mythologies*.

Foucault, M. “Space, Power and Knowledge” in During, *The Cultural Studies Reader*.

Foucault, M. “Truth and Power” in *Critical Theory since Plato*. Eds. Hazard Adams and Leroy Searle.

Week IX (Nov. 11) Popular Culture

Storey, J. “What is Popular Culture?” in *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture*, 2001.

Certeau, M. “Part I: A Very Ordinary Culture” in *The Practice of Everyday Life*, 1984.

Fiske, J. “Understanding the Popular” in *Reading the Popular*, 1989.

Week X (Nov. 18) Subculture

Hebdige, D. Chapters 5-9. in *Subculture: The Meaning of Style*.

Clarke, J. et al. "Subcultures, cultures and class" in *Resistance through Rituals: Youth Subcultures in Postwar Britain*. 2nd ed, 2006.

Week XI (Nov. 25) Class and Gender

Cook, J. "Class, Taste and Space" in *Cultural Studies and the Working Class*. Ed. Sally R. Munt, 2000.

Butler, J. "Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire" in *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*, 1999.

Week XII (Dec. 02) MIDTERM II

Week XIII (Dec. 09) Race and Ethnicity

Fanon, F. "The Fact of Blackness" in *Black Skin, White Masks*, 1952.

Banks, M. "Ethnicity and Race in Britain," and "Ethnicity and Nationalism" in *Ethnicity: Anthropological Constructions*, 1996.

Week XIV (Dec. 16) Postcolonial Studies

Childs, P. and P. Williams. "Introduction: Points of Departure." in *An Introduction to Post-Colonial Theory*, 1997.

Ashcroft, B. et al. From *The Empire Writes Back*.

Said, E. From *Orientalism*.

Week XV (Dec. 23) Postcolonial Studies continued, overall evaluation.

Bhabha H. From *The Location of Culture*, "Of Mimicry and Man: The Ambivalence of Colonial Discourse."

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 without valid excuse on one's group presentation day will result in the taking away of 50% 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 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 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, within two weeks following the presentation. 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 designated due 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: In addition to the texts assigned for each week's class meeting, the students are expected to obtain copies of the following course book and read the relevant section(s) before coming to class:

Barker, Chris. *Cultural Studies: Theory and Practice*, 3rd ed.

Sardar, Ziauddin, and Borin Van Loon. *Introducing Cultural Studies*, 3rd ed, 2001.