

Department of English & Writing Studies

English 2250F (001) - Introduction to Cultural Studies
Fall 2015Wednesdays 6-9pm
AHB 1B08Instructor: Dr. Amanda Di Ponio
Office location: Arts and Humanities Building 2G28E
Office Hours: Wednesdays 3-5pm and by appointment
E-mail: adiponi@uwo.ca

Feel free to e-mail me with brief questions. Students can expect to receive responses to e-mails within 24-48 hours. Please contact me via e-mail to make an appointment to see me or speak with me outside of regular office hours. If possible, please make an appointment to see me during office hours so that students who wish to see me are able to. During peak times (i.e. before essays submissions and the final exam), additional appointment times outside of regular office hours will be made available to students.

TA: Zinaka
E-mail: pzinaka@uwo.ca
Office location: Arts and Humanities Building 0N85
Office hours: Wednesdays 2-4pm (provisional)**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces students to the strategies of analyzing culture, from 1950s Birmingham, where the discipline began, to present day. Students will take an interdisciplinary approach to exploring how culture is produced and processed, the objects of which are carefully shaped, advertised, distributed, and consumed. We respond to culture in diverse ways, and through collective and individual discussion and research, students will investigate aspects of culture – literature, art, music, theatre, television, film, customs and traditions – in order to understand them in relation to their social, political, aesthetic, ethical, and subjective contexts. With a thorough understanding of the key concepts of Cultural Studies, gathered from a range of theoretical, creative, and critical texts, students will be prepared for advanced future study.

PREREQUISITE(S): At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020E or 1022E or 1024E or 1035E or 1036E or both English 1027F/G and 1028F/G, or permission of the Department.

REQUIRED TEXT

The Cultural Studies Reader, ed. Simon During. 3rd edn. New York: Routledge, 2007 [ISBN 978-0415374132]

Some readings/ critical materials not included in the above will be distributed to students throughout the term, either electronically through OWL powered by Sakai or in class.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Close-read and respond to a range of theoretical, critical, and creative texts to decipher and amass meaning.

Identify, discuss, and then apply key concepts and theoretical approaches to Cultural Studies.

Experience culture at the local level and determine what approaches to culture are employed.

Understand strategies and practices in cultural studies to interpret meaning.

Engage in cultural discourse with critical perspectives that reflect social, aesthetic, ethical, and political contexts.

Participate in readings and classroom discussion in order to engage with theoretical texts collaboratively.

Research and engage with scholarly/critical secondary texts.

Incorporate evidence, from both primary and secondary texts, in essay writing in support of arguments.

Write essays that logically and persuasively present complex and debatable arguments.

Apply principles of quotation integration using MLA documentation.

ASSIGNMENTS

Study in Local Culture (1,000 words) 10%

Midterm 15%

Research Essay + Introductory paragraph and Annotated Bibliography (2,000-2,500 words) 25%

Participation (includes attendance, discussions, etc.) 15%

Final Exam 35%

NOTE: In accordance with Department of English standards, students must pass BOTH the term work and the final examination in order to pass the course. Students who fail the final examination (regardless of term mark) automatically fail the course.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS

A Study in Local Culture: This assignment will require students to spend time in the local community, choosing a space/location to visit, to consider cultural space in the urban place. On the visit itself, the associated task is to solely observe the space itself – its design, décor, etc. – and the people therein – their behaviour, dress, interaction with the space (the challenge will be to do so free from any preconceived notions of the space). The notes you take will help in your analysis, post-visit, which will be supported by course readings to help you develop your ideas. Additional instruction will be given to students in the second week of classes.

Research Essay: A formal, extended critical analysis of one reading or critical strategy studied in the course. Students will want to challenge the theoretical approach chosen, offering more than one possible interpretation of the theory in practice. These challenges should be supported by the inclusion of examples of texts, literature, artifacts, musical compositions/videos, theatre, television, film, etc. in your analyses. The research essay should endeavour to go beyond the simple exposition of ideas. Secondary research is required (at least 3 materials – essays/articles from books/academic journals). Further instruction, essay-writing tips, and research tips will be provided. MLA citation style is required.

Introductory paragraph and Annotated Bibliography: Prior to submission of the Research Essay, students will submit their introductory paragraphs – including thesis statement – for their essays in addition to an Annotated Bibliography for approval. This task is worth 5% of the Research Essay. Details to follow.

The Essay is due on the date specified in the lecture and reading schedule below. **Late assignments will incur a late penalty of 2% per day**, up to a maximum of two weeks. Assignments handed in late should be submitted as an electronic copy **only** and submitted to the assignments tab on our course website on OWL; these assignments will not be appended with comments. Assignments submitted after the two-week period will not be accepted. Extenuating circumstances will be considered provided students seek academic accommodation if/when necessary (see below).

Midterm:

detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted 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 Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

For English Department regulations governing term work, exams, faculty office hours, academic relief (appeals, petitions, che apinps), td sohe r5(sm-11(a)4(rt)-3(e)4(dr, p)l)4(a)4(le)3(f-9(c)4(uns)ul-2(te)-11(r

LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE

Week 1 Introduction: History, Theory, Method
Wednesday, Sept. 16 Course presentation: readings, objectives, assignments, participation, etc.
Course texts: *The Cultural Studies Reader*, 3rd edn.
A brief history ft. key concepts: Arnold, Leavis, Hoggart, and Williams; Birmingham Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies (CCCS)
What is Culture Studies?

Week 2 Ideology
Wednesday, Sept. 23 Stuart Hall, "Cultural Studies and its Theoretical Legacies"
Antonio Gramsci, "The Organization of Education and Culture" from *The Prison Notebooks*
Louis Althusser, "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatus" (handout)

Week 3 Culture in the Urban Space
Wednesday, Sept. 30 Henri Lefebvre, "Notes on the New Town"
Michel de Certeau, "Walking in the City"
Raymond Williams, "Ideas of Nature"

Week 4 Language and Power

Wednesday, Oct. 31 Tm[()] Tu 0 0 0 1 226.25 377.97Tm[(.)] TJETBT1 0 071 226.25 377.95 Tm

