

## Department of English &amp; Writing Studies

**English 2250F (001)**  
**Introduction to Cultural Studies**  
Fall 2016

**Instructor:** Emily Kring  
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Office: TBA  
Office hours: TBA, or by appointment

**Location:** Arts & Humanities Building 2R21

**Date/time:** Wednesday 6:30pm-9:30pm

Teaching Assistant: TBA

**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.

Course Description

As a term, “culture” is amorphous: it’s evocative insofar as we answer the question “what is it” with “everything”—so why do we study it? This course asks students to interrogate their assumptions about what constitutes “culture” by introducing them to the central topics, terms, and analytical tools of the interdisciplinary field of cultural studies. With emphasis on applying some of the field’s most famous theories to a range of contemporary texts, events, and phenomena, students are invited to question (a) what are the values of studying culture and its productions, (b) for whom and for what purposes culture operates, and (c) how understanding and engaging the work and works of culture shapes the way we live in the world. As an introductory survey to a diverse field, this course will focus variously on topics such as: ideology, representation, economy, feminism, queer theory, race, globaliza





**Final Exam (3 hours, 35%):**

The final exam will consist of three parts: terms, short answers, and an essay. As with the midterm, you will be given the essay questions in advance of the exam date with the expectation that you prepare an answer with argumentative focus and examples for the exam-day. More information on the final exam will be communicated later in the term.

**What you can expect from me:**

I will respond to emails within 24 hours (48 hours on weekends), and be engaged and ready to discuss our weekly topics, to answer your questions, and to encourage you to develop your critical thinking, research, and writing skills. In addition to holding regular office hours, I will be available for appointments should you wish to discuss class material, assignments, or ideas for your research essays/response papers.

Overall, my role is to teach you the arguments, ideas, and concepts that are central to cultural studies: I encourage you to question my interpretations of texts, and I invite you to disagree with the texts themselves. As stated above, the aims of this course are largely to do with students developing and sharpening their close-analysis skills, while learning about culture and being self

**Oct. 5—Cultures of Space and Mobility**

Michel Foucault's "Space, Power and Knowledge" (OWL)

Michel de Certeau "Walking in the City" (OWL)

Case study: International & participatory walking tour "hear you are --- [murmur]" (see: <http://murmurtoronto.ca/about.php>)

**Oct. 12—Feminism**

from Susan Bordo's *Unbearable Weight: Feminism, Western Culture, and the Body* (OWL)

Sarah Ahmed's "Feminist Killjoys" from *The Promise of Happiness* (OWL)

Case study: Pro-Eating Disorder Communities (see:

<https://theproanalifestyleforever.wordpress.com/>) & Instagram-aesthetic food in eating disorder recovery (see users: <https://www.instagram.com/balancednotclean/>; & <https://www.instagram.com/recoveringdana/>)

**Oct. 19—Queer Theory & Sexuality**

Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick's "Axiomatic" (OWL)

from Lee Edelman's *No Future: Queer Theory and the Death Drive* (OWL)

Case study: David France's *How to Survive a Plague* (available on Netflix & will be screened on campus prior to class).

**Oct. 26—Race & Identity Politics\***

If you are

