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Tuesdays from 3:30-4:00 p.m.
Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Thursdays from 2:30-4:00 p.m.

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Welcome to Introduction to Cultural Studies. Because we live in an age of intense media saturation, it is vital to pause and consider what roles culture plays and what kinds of social, ideological, and political work it performs in our lives. What is culture? Who makes it and whom does it serve? How does it circulate in the world and

Custom Course Book

Available at the University Bookstore

- It might be useful to discuss how you first encountered this cultural text or product and what your initial reaction was and whether it has changed over time.

- Students are also required to include the following analytic and research components in their paper:

a.) The specific cultural text or product should be described. Who made it? When? How was it produced and distributed? How did you come to encounter it (i.e. movie theatre, on iTunes, or is it an alternative cultural production that you had to seek out through more local or alternative networks)? Does the mode of distribution of this cultural text or product impact how people encounter it?

b.) What is the precise genre of this cultural text or product? If you are talking about a film, what kind of film is it (horror, science fiction, ^ Œ } u , } u š X M , Œ • š μ v š • Œ ~] X X } } | Œ Œ] Á i p š y] v t • š Œ v [• holdings or an article from a scholarly journal) that help them to provide context about the emergence and development of the particular genre they are discussing and to situate their cultural text or product of choice in relation to this genre. Each scholarly source must be properly cited within the essay. It may also be appropriate to consider how your cultural text or product of choice deviates from the traditions of this genre or blends genres or utilizes the genre in new ways.

c.) The essay should discuss the visual, sonic, auditory, linguistic, or other elements of the text and explain how they work together to generate and convey meaning. The close reading should elucidate how and why this text impacted you, conveyed an important message, and was vital to the overarching purpose of the work.

d.) Please end your essay with a conclusion that grapples with at least some of the following questions: What does the story of your encounter with this cultural text or product tell you more generally about why and how culture matters? Has reflecting critically on this cultural text or product made you think different

- Presentations should be approximately _____ in length
- Each presentation will be required to respond to the assigned theoretical readings for the week in question. Students will be asked to introduce the class to a cultural text of their choosing (a television commercial, a magazine advertisement, a film clip, part of a music video, etc.) and relate that text to the assigned readings. Because you cannot assume that everyone in the class will be familiar with the cultural text you are

- All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the scheduled due date. Assignments handed in after the commencement of class on the scheduled due date will be assessed a late penalty of 1%. Any assignments submitted after the due date will be assessed a late penalty (2% per day, including weekends). Assignments must be submitted either directly to the Professor at the beginning of class or submitted as late and handed in to the secure essay drop off box outside the English Department office.

Extensions will be granted only with medical certification or under other extenuating circumstances and should, when possible, be arranged with the Professor in advance.

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 - All assignments should be submitted on 8.5" x 11" paper in Times New Roman 12-point font. The title page should include the following information: the title of the essay, your name, the course number, and the date. Please staple your essay pages together rather than using binders or plastic report covers. Essays must be submitted in paper copy. Email, computer disks, and faxes will not be accepted.

- All bibliographic notation should follow the MLA method of parenthetical citation. All assignments š Z š u l μ • } (• } v CE Ç • } μ CE • • Z } μ o } μ o à Z ` Á] š

- Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments with 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at

http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

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http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

- Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a scholastic offence, at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

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Registrarial Services

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January 23: Sign Systems, Myth, and Ideology
Ferdinand de Saussure, from *Course in General Linguistics*
Roland Œ š Z • U ^ D Œ š Z d } Œ

January 25 Signs Systems, Myth, and Ideology (cont.)

January 30 Biopower and Discourse
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February 1: Biopower and Discourse: Theory-Practice Presentation

February 6 Sex, Gender, and Culture
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Eve Kosofsky ^ P Á] I U ^ / v š Œ } μ š] } Œ _ • Œ u ô ' š Œ Œ Œ v Œ } š] d Œ] v P o •

February 8 Sex, Gender, and Culture Theory-in-Practice Presentation

February 13 Feminism and Culture
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February 15 Feminism and Culture: Theory-Practice Presentation

February 20 and 22: Classes Cancelled for Reading Week

February 27 Queering Culture
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March 1: Queering Culture: Theory-Practice Presentation

March 6: d Z μ o š μ Œ o } v R á Œ μ š] } v } (^
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D Œ Z ô W d Z μ o š μ Œ o } Theory-Practice Presentation

March 13: Whose Culture?: Power, Politics, and Cultural Appropriation
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March 15: Whose Culture?: Theory-Practice Presentation

