

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

Course Profile

Course Number : HSS 226	Course Title: Popular Culture and the USA
Required / Elective : Elective	Pre / Co-requisites : None
Catalog Description: The meaning of “popular.” Brief history of popular culture, its basic elements and features, paradigms, replication myth and the creation and influence of myths, themes, and patterns. Analyses of examples from American cinema, TV shows and programs, music, art, sculpture and architecture. Language and styles of presentation, and artistic and political interpretations.	Textbook/Required Material: Various readings, assembled in a course pack.
Course Structure / Schedule : (3+0+0) 3 / 5 ECTS	
Extended Description: This course examines popular culture and the emergence of mass culture in the USA over the past 150 years or so. It starts from the premise that popular culture is in fact an important site of popular expression, social instruction, and cultural conflict—and thus deserves critical attention. We will look mainly at television, film, advertising, popular music, and cyberculture (with occasional forays into other modes of pop culture). We will analyze how such critical sociological variables as race, ethnicity, gender, class, age, region, and sexuality are shaped by and reshaped in popular culture.	
Design content: none	Computer usage: No particular computer usage required
<p>Course Outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the nature of popular culture in the United States, especially those aspects that are unique to the USA. (3, 5, 6) 2. Be able to contextualize the role of media in popular culture in the USA. (3, 5, 6) 3. Develop a familiarity with at least one particular medium of popular culture, and write a paper and give a presentation on it (them). (3, 8, 14) <p>(3) Describe interrelationships between art, culture, and society.</p> <p>(5) Explain historical, political, and material conditions in which artistic and cultural expression emerge.</p> <p>(6) Analyze how modes of thought are shaped by socio-cultural, historical, political, and economic variables.</p> <p>(8) Summarize and assess current developments in the subject area.</p> <p>(14) Demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively with written, oral, and visual means.</p>	
Recommended reading :	
Teaching methods: Lecture and class discussions.	
Assessment methods : Film response, book review, term project, class participation	

Student workload:

Pre-reading	25 hrs
Lectures	45 hrs
Preparatory reading	30 hrs
Literature review for presentation.....	15 hrs
Team work for presentation	10 hrs
TOTAL	125 hrs

Prepared by : Dr. Mark A. Shields

Revision Date :