

Carleton University
Summer 2014
Department of English

ENGL2100A: ISSUES IN POPULAR CULTURE

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:35 pm – 5:25 pm
Location: Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Richard Evans
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Office: 201Z St-Patrick's Bldg
Phone: TBA
Office Hours: TBA

OUTLINE:

This course will examine various competing theories and approaches surrounding the study of Popular Culture and Cultural Theory. Lectures will focus primarily on American Pop Culture, though the theoretical readings will initially gesture back to such influential thinkers and theorists as Marx, Freud, Foucault, Butler, Lyotard and Jameson. The theoretical readings will build towards an in-depth examination of one/two novels and one play (as well as watching their film adaptations) in the latter part of the course. Through lectures and detailed studies of specific literary works, students will learn to engage and debate these various theories in their own coursework, culminating in an essay/seminar focusing on a novel or film of their choosing.

Texts will include: (available from Campus Bookstore)

Storey, John. *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture: An Introduction* (6th edition, Pearson)

Banks, Russell. *The Sweet Hereafter* (Vintage)

Kaufman, Moisés. *The Laramie Project* (Vintage)

McMurtry, Larry. *The Last Picture Show* (Simon & Schuster)

(Note: Either Banks OR McMurtry may be removed from final syllabus)

Requirements:

One Essay (1500- 2000 words) - 40%

One In-Class Presentations - 35%

Participation (5 Online & In-Class Responses) - 25%

**ENGL2100: POPULAR CULTURE
PROPOSED SYLLABUS (subject to change)**

May 6	Introduction
May 8	Storey, Chapters 1 & 2: (What is Popular Culture/Tradition)
May 13	Storey, Chapter 3: Culturalism
May 15	Storey, Chapter 4 & 5: Marxisms & Psychoanalysis
May 20	Storey, Chapter 6: Structuralism & Post-Structuralism
May 22	Storey, Chapter 7: Gender & Sexuality
May 27	Storey, Chapter 8: 'Race', Racism and Representation
May 29	Storey, Chapters 9 & 10: Postmodernism/Politics of the Popular
June 3	Banks, <i>The Sweet Hereafter</i> OR McMurtry, <i>The Last Picture Show</i>
June 5	Kaufman, <i>The Laramie Project</i>
June 10	Class Presentations
June 12	Class Presentations
June 17	Conclusions/Review (Final Paper Due In Class)

Presentations:

Presentations will take place in the final full week of class—thus giving students sufficient time to choose a topic (**in consultation with me**). These will be approximately 15-20 minutes in length and will connect a Theory or Concept from the class with a Novel/Film/Play/Video of the student's choosing to demonstrate a *personalized* connection to the material covered in class. **The novels/films on June 3rd and 5th will be lectures/presentations given by me as examples of what students *might* want to do with their own seminars the following week.**

Term Paper/Essay: Due on **June 17, 2014**--Length: 1500-2000 words (6-8pp.)

The Term Paper/Essay for this class will be a further adaptation (with comments/ suggestions gleaned from in-class responses and written feedback from me) of the student's Seminar Presentation in Class. Students may choose a different topic from their Seminar for this final assignment, but this is **not** recommended due to the brevity of the Summer Course Period. Specifics will be discussed in our Introductory Class.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated for this course. For an explanation, see the statement about Instructional Offences in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the [PMC website](#) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).