

**Carleton University
Fall 2013
Department of English**

English 2100A: POPULAR CULTURE

Wednesdays, 18:05 – 20:55

Location: 416 Southam (Please confirm on Carleton Central)

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Priscilla L. Walton
Office: DT 1807
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Percy_walton@carleton.ca

OUTLINE:

This course will examine configurations and discursive constructions in popular culture. It will concentrate on the ways in which popular culture focalizes various issues, as well as provides rhetorical arguments for and against those issues. Classes will consider how to formulate an argument about the ideological performance of popular narratives, and will query how those performances influence cultural assumptions and expectations.

Texts will include:

Sellnow, Deanna. *The Rhetorical Power of Popular Culture*

Note: These texts will be available at Octopus Books, 116 Third Avenue (Bank and Third); (613) 233-2589

REQUIREMENTS:

One Essay (1500- 2000 words) -	40%
Group Presentations -	35%
Participation -	<u>25%</u>
	100%

**English 2100A: POPULAR CULTURE
PROPOSED SYLLABUS**

September 11	Introduction
September 18	Sellnow, Chapter 1: Popular Culture and Rhetorical Analyses
September 25	Sellnow, Chapter 2: Neo-Aristotelian Arguments
October 2	Sellnow, Chapter 3: Narrative Arguments
October 9	Sellnow, Chapter 4: Dramatistic Arguments
October 16	Sellnow, Chapter 5: Marxist Arguments
October 23	Sellnow, Appendix: Essay Writing
October 30	Fall Break
November 6	Sellnow, Chapter 6: Feminist Arguments
November 13	Sellnow, Chapter 7: Music Arguments (Assignments due in Class)
November 20	Sellnow, Chapter 8: Visual Pleasure Arguments
November 27	Sellnow Chapter 9: Media Arguments
December 4	Review

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Group Presentations:

Group presentations will use an aspect of popular culture to construct a rhetorical argument, employing the style of argument under study that week.

Essay

Due Date: November 13, 2013 **Length:** 1500 words (6 pp.)

Papers will construct a scholarly argument using a rhetorical method discussed in class. Students will choose an aspect of popular culture that they believe best illustrates their methodology, and will submit a persuasive research essay.

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

For Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations are required to contact a coordinator at the Paul Menton Centre to complete the necessary *letters of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss their needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first class or CUTV test. This is to ensure sufficient time is available to make the necessary accommodation arrangements.

For Religious Observance:

Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious observance should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student.

Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and Carleton's Academic Accommodation policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance.

For Pregnancy:

Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.