

Carleton University  
Late Summer 2016  
Department of English

**ENGL 2100A TOPICS IN POPULAR CULTURE**

**Prerequisite(s): second-year standing**

**Classes: Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:35 – 2:25**  
**TB 240**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Priscilla L. Walton  
Office: DT 1807  
Telephone: 520-2600, ext. 2322  
Percy\_walton@carleton.ca

**OUTLINE:**

**Topic: Assessing Popular Culture**

This course will concentrate on the field of popular culture. Classes will range from diverse approaches to popular culture to readings of particular texts.

**Texts:**

Takacs, Stacy. *Interrogating Popular Culture*.

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

**REQUIREMENTS:**

One Essay (1500 words) -	50%
Seminars -	25%
Participation -	<u>25%</u>
	100%

**Plagiarism:** See the statement on Instructional Offences in the Undergraduate Calendar (p. 63)

**Request For Academic Accommodation:**

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

**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](mailto: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).

**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. For more details see the [Student Guide](#).

**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. For more details see the [Student Guide](#).

**Note: If one of your assignments is lost, misplaced, or not received by the instructor, you are responsible for having a backup copy that can be submitted immediately upon request.**

**English 2100: POPULAR CULTURE  
PROPOSED SYLLABUS**

July 5	Introduction
July 7	Takacs, Chapter 1: What is Popular Culture?
July 12	Takacs, Chapter 2: Is Popular Culture Modern?
July 14	Takacs, Chapter 3: What is the Function of Popular Culture?
July 19	Takacs, Chapter 4: What is the Object of Popular Culture Study?
July 21	Takacs, Chapter 5: What are the Politics of Popular Culture?
July 26	Takacs, Chapter 6: How is Popular Culture Made and Valued?
July 28	Takacs, Chapter 7: How do we Relate to Popular Culture?
August 2:	Takacs, Chapters 8-10 ESSAYS DUE IN CLASS
August 4	<i>The People v OJ Simpson</i> (episodes 3 and 4)
August 9	<i>Trumbo</i> (film)
August 11	Review

## **English 2100: POPULAR CULTURE**

### **Group Presentations:**

Group presentations will use an aspect of popular culture to discuss the chapter under study that week, and explore its strengths and weaknesses.

### **Essay**

**Due Date:** August 2, 2016    **Length:** 1500 words (6 pp.)

There are various ways to approach the study of popular culture. Some look at the institutions responsible for producing popular culture; some look at the normative messages conveyed by popular culture; others look at how popular culture becomes a terrain of struggle where the powerful and powerless negotiate the values that will prevail in society. Discuss ONE of these approaches, assessing its strengths and weaknesses, and locating your argument in a particular popular culture text (book, film, TV show, etc.)