In this course we will explore the sociology of popular culture; that is, the ways in which aspects of contemporary society are reflected in cultural artifacts and practices, and, in turn, the ways in which those things influence society.

In exploring this relationship, we will first differentiate popular culture from other forms of culture before examining the ideological effects of cultural artifacts, the nature of those artifacts as commodities, and who produces pop culture.

We will also try to understand why we like the things we like, and how globalization and digital technologies are affecting the production and consumption of culture around the world. The course will conclude by looking at the rise of dystopian themes in pop culture and possible directions for the future.

Prerequisite(s): SOCI 1001 and SOCI 1002, or SOCI 1003 [1.0], or ANTH 1001, or ANTH 1002.
Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you should have:

• A broad grasp of the history and development of pop culture

• Knowledge of the various social forces that shape pop culture

• Knowledge of how pop culture is produced and consumed

• The ability to critically interpret pop culture and how we interact with it

All readings can be found on CULearn.

I truly believe that this course is relevant to your lives. If, at any time during this course, you feel that what we’re learning isn’t useful, I urge you to put up your hand and ask me: “Why should I give a damn?”

I’ll gladly take time to explain why I believe what we’re learning is important for you to know. And if I can’t explain why, I’ll amend that section of the course.
**Requirements**

**Attendance** is absolutely vital to this course, and will be a necessary component to getting a good grade. Attendance at all classes is expected unless documentation explaining an absence can be provided. In return for attending the course, I promise to make it interesting, and worthwhile. If you are unable to attend class regularly, I recommend you do not take this course.

The **Decoding Paper** will assess your understanding of Stuart Hall’s encoding/decoding model by asking you to analyze a recent news article and provide different interpretations as to how the text might be understood or ‘decoded’ by different social groups. **Due July 29**

The **Project Runway Paper** will assess your ability to apply theories and concepts from the course to contemporary media by asking you to provide a critical analysis of an episode of Project Runway. The episode will be viewed in class. **Due August 14**

The **Take-Home Exam** will assess your understanding of the course material from the entire term. You will be asked to answer a single question in essay format. **Due August 23**

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**Grading**

- **Attendance:** 10%
- **Decoding Paper:** 20%
- **Project Runway Paper:** 30%
- **Take-Home Exam:** 40%

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- All citations in **APA Style**
- Double-spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman font
- Late items marked down 5% per day
## Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 3</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Optional:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Readings</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td><em>Vice: 3D Printing Guns</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>The Value of Art in an Age of Digital Reproduction</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Film:</td>
<td><em>The Price of Everything</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Readings</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 31</td>
<td>Project Runway Viewing</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 5</td>
<td>Civic Holiday</td>
<td>No Class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please note that the listed readings are examples for demonstration purposes and may not reflect the actual materials assigned for the course.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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</table>
Obligatory Remarks

Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation
In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar Regulations, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

- A+ = 90-100
- A  = 85-89
- A - = 80-84
- B+ = 77-79
- B  = 73-76
- B - = 70-72
- C+ = 67-69
- C  = 63-66
- C - = 60-62
- D+ = 57-59
- D  = 53-56
- D - = 50-52
- F    = Below 50
- WDN = Withdrawn from the course
- DEF = Deferred (See above)

Academic Regulations, Accommodations, Plagiarism, Etc.
University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university's website, here: www.calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/

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

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 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).

*The deadline for contacting the Paul Menton Centre regarding accommodation for final exams for Early Summer 2019 exam period is May 31 and for Full/Late Summer 2019 exam period is July 26.
For Religious Obligations:
Please contact your instructor 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, visit the Equity Services website: www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

For Pregnancy:
Please contact your instructor 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, visit the Equity Services website: www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

For Survivors of Sexual Violence
As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton’s Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: www.carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities
Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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. https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is the passing off of someone else’s work as your own and is a serious academic offence. For the details of what constitutes plagiarism, the potential penalties and the procedures refer to the section on Instructional Offences in the Undergraduate Calendar. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the Carleton University Student Academic Integrity Policy (See https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/). The Policy is strictly enforced and is binding on all students. Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Students who infringe the Policy may be subject to one of several penalties.

What are the Penalties for Plagiarism?
A student found to have plagiarized an assignment may be subject to one of several penalties including but not limited to: a grade of zero, a failure or a reduced grade for the piece of academic work; reduction of final grade in the course; completion of a remediation process; re-submission of academic work; withdrawal from course(s); suspension from a program of study; a letter of reprimand.

What are the Procedures?
All allegations of plagiarism are reported to the faculty of Dean of FASS and Management. Documentation is prepared by instructors and departmental chairs. The Dean writes to the student and the University Ombudsperson about the alleged plagiarism. The Dean reviews the allegation. If it is not resolved at this level then it is referred to a tribunal appointed by the Senate.

Assistance for Students:
Academic and Career Development Services: http://carleton.ca/sacds/
Writing Services: http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/
Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS): https://carleton.ca/csas/group-support/pass/

Important Information:
• Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).
• Students must always retain a hard copy of all work that is submitted.
• Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.
• Carleton University is committed to protecting the privacy of those who study or work here (currently and formerly). To that end, Carleton’s Privacy Office seeks to encourage the implementation of the privacy provisions of Ontario’s Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) within the university.
• In accordance with FIPPA, please ensure all communication with staff/faculty is via your Carleton email account. To get your Carleton Email you will need to activate your MyCarletonOne account through Carleton Central. Once you have activated your MyCarletonOne account, log into the MyCarleton Portal.
• Please note that you will be able to link your MyCarletonOne account to other non-MyCarletonOne accounts and receive emails from us. However, for us to respond to your emails, we need to see your full name, CU ID, and the email must be written from your valid MyCarletonOne address. Therefore, it would be easier to respond to your inquiries if you would send all email from your connect account. If you do not have or have yet to activate this account, you may wish to do so by visiting https://students.carleton.ca/

Important Dates

Summer 2019

May 6
Early summer and full summer courses begin.
May 17-29
Fall/Winter and Winter term deferred final examinations will be held.
May 20
Statutory Holiday. University closed.
May 24
Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from early summer and full summer courses (financial withdrawal). Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
June 11  Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or ex-
aminations totalling more than 15% of the final grade for early summer
courses before the official examination period (see Examination Regu-
lations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the
Undergraduate Calendar).

June 18  Last day of early summer classes (NOTE: Full summer classes resume
July 2).
Last day for academic withdrawal from early summer courses.
Last day for handing in term assignments, subject to any earlier course
deadline.

June 19-20  No classes or examinations take place.
June 21-27  Early summer final examinations and mid-term examinations in full
summer courses may be held. Examinations are normally held all sev-
en days of the week.

July 1  Statutory Holiday. University closed.
July 2  Late summer courses begin.
Full summer courses resume.

July 19-21  Early summer term deferred final examinations to be held.
July 22  Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from late summer
courses (financial withdrawal).

August 5  Civic Holiday. University closed.
August 7  Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or ex-
aminations totaling more than 15% of the final grade for late summer
and full summer courses before the official examination period (see
Examination Regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University
section of the Undergraduate Calendar).

August 14  Summer term financial holds preventing access to grades through Car-
leton Central and the release of official documents will be applied to
accounts with an outstanding balance.
Last day of late summer and full summer classes.
Classes follow a Monday schedule.
Last day for academic withdrawal from late summer and full summer
courses and any other courses that end this term.
Last day for handing in term assignments, subject to any earlier course
deadline.

August 15-16  No classes or examinations take place
August 17-23  Final examinations in late summer and full summer courses may be
held. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.

August 23  All take home examinations are due on this day, with the exception of
those conforming to the Examinations regulations in the Academic
Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/
General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.

September 13-15  Late summer and full summer term deferred examinations will be held.