

Popular Culture: Sociology 135

GE Area C2
Section 1, TR 4:30-5:45p
Del Norte 1004
Professor Todd A. Migliaccio
Office: Amador Hall 451D
Hours: TR 3-4:30p, or by appointment
Phone: 278-6522
tmigliac@csus.edu

Course Objective:

Analyzes social processes that produce popular culture by contrasting interrelationships between institutional power structures and collective behavior. Examines theories of popular culture, mass movements, and individualism; social change, cultural hegemony, sub-cultures, and organizational studies.

The course is scaffolded with materials and assignments to help student build on ideas as they utilize their sociological imagination in relation to popular culture, with a goal of developing their media mindfulness.

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

1. Identify the artifacts that exist in dominant Western culture that are considered popular culture and why they may (or may not) be considered popular
2. Demonstrate knowledge of how to understand and study popular culture as a representation of a society.
3. Investigate, describe, and analyze the roles and effects of popular culture and understanding in the development of societies.
4. Compare and analyze different forms of popular culture and their reflection of the society.
5. Students will develop a critical media literacy that allows them to understand the deeper context of social artifacts produced in dominant Western society and their meaning in society.
6. Students will be able to apply their critical media literacy as they engage and create their own social artifacts that are part of the media.

Required Texts:

All articles are located on-line. The academic (peer-reviewed) articles were chosen to help introduce key concepts about men and masculinity studies that will help students to understand the ideas being discussed in class. Some of the articles address theory issues, but most are chosen to introduce examples of research that relay ideas to students that either directly relate or can be connected to class ideas.

The non-academic articles are chosen to introduce students to contemporary, popular culture issues that are related to men and masculinity, connecting to the concepts, articles and ideas that are being raised in the class. They are used to give students a more applied understanding of the concepts in the class.

Brightest Day: Graphic Novel: DC Comics

1401232760

The use of a comic book was to give students an example of a popular culture artifact based on class items/discussions. Each of the issues was identified as the top selling issues for the time frame in which they came out.

Little Black Sambo

1557094144

The book offers a short book that is part of the popular culture, connecting to socialization of children, politics, social issues, race, inequality, etc that will be used to introduce ideas from the class and to practice at developing an argumentative thesis for a paper.

Policies, Rules and Supports:

Interaction Guidelines:

This class will engage some challenging topics that can create difficult, and often times personal conversations. I expect everyone to respect one another, as this is a learning environment that allow everyone to learn. It is set up to create an inclusive, equitable and diverse learning classroom by creating a brave space.

- Focus on Learning
- Active Listening
- Respond to and challenge ideas, not people.
- Brave Space!
- “Share the Air” and be aware of space we take up.
- Be mindful of our words and their impact.

Due Dates:

The due dates for each of the papers are stated in the syllabus and identified in Canvas. Double check if you are not sure. No late papers will be accepted. The paper guidelines are on the web, as well as in a handout given at the beginning of class. As well, a brief statement in class about what is expected will be given. The due dates for each assignment are listed in the course calendar at the end of the syllabus. While I will attempt to offer reminders to impending due dates, it is ultimately your responsibility to ensure that all assignments and exams are ready to be turned in by the expected due date.

Emails:

You need to regularly check Canvas email (the email account on Canvas, titled: Inbox) for contact and information sent to you by your group members and the professor. It is assumed you are reading those regularly so any information missed is your responsibility. This does not mean all information is disseminated through email.

If you email me, through any email, check to see if I have responded to you.

Extensions:

Throughout the course, each student will be allotted four extensions for the papers/assignments. This means you are turning a paper/assignment in late, but as long as you are using extensions, it will not lose points. One extension allows you to turn it in the following class day, up until 10p. A second extension means it will be two class days late. You do not need permission from the professor. The date you submit it will be noted. You may use these extensions whenever you want, subject to the rules given below:

1) You get four extensions. Don't ask me for more- you will not get them. Hence, you should use extensions wisely when you really need them, such as sickness or an athletic event.

2) You may use a maximum of two extensions on any one paper; by using two on one paper, you can turn the paper in two class periods late.

3) You can use one on any assignment given in the class, meaning the assignment can be turned in the next class period. Any assignment turned in later, or if you have used all of your extensions, will not be accepted.

4) Any paper that is submitted later than the next class after it is due (regardless of your extension situation), or is turned in late after you have used all of your extensions will be penalized two full grades. If it is submitted over two weeks late, further penalties may occur.

5) Any assignments submitted after one class period (regardless of extension situation), or after you have used all of your extensions, the assignment will not be accepted.

6) You can only use 1 extension on reading reflections, class assignments and popular culture artifact descriptions. If you use it for the cultural artifact description, you are still responsible for turning in the paper on time. Late submission for the paper is a different extension.

7) You cannot use any extension on the exams, the quiz or the online discussion postings.

8) You are responsible to keep track of your own extensions.

9) If you use two extensions for the final paper, it will be due the Tuesday of Finals week.

10) Extensions include when there are technology problems. In other words, if there are technical problems that does not mean you get an extra day. It is still due on the required day.

11) If there is a holiday on a date that the paper is due after using an extension, the paper is still due on that day (or before) (i.e. Spring Break: Paper will still be due by Tuesday evening).

Assignments and Exams:

All assignments must be typed and submitted online (if you cannot submit online. Required information on the front of each paper: Title of the paper, your name, and the name of the class (Sociology 127 for those of you not paying attention). Thank you.

NO MAKE UP EXAMS. (This is why the dropped exam policy exists.)

Use of Canvas:

The class is located on the Canvas campus server. You will be able to access the outlines for the course, any overheads used in class, any material that was handed out, all of the assignments, as well as the submission links for all assignments and the syllabus, which includes all course policies and guidelines. You will also be able to locate your assignment grades on-line if you desire (the full grade will not be determined until just before finals week).

While there are times when the Canvas site will be down, this is not an excuse for a missed assignment or late paper. The material will be up with sufficient time to copy it before it comes due. Ultimately it is your responsibility to either obtain it, or let me know of any problems you are having with it. Most problems are related to the computer department, so contact the help desk. If they are unable/unwilling to help you let me know, and I will attempt to correct any problems, but on occasion they are not my fault (I know, that is hard to imagine, but it is true).

CSUS complies with the regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and offers accommodations to students with disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability that may necessitate accommodations being made in the classroom, please contact SSD, (916) 278-6955. If you have any questions, feel free to ask me. All information will be held in the strictest confidence.

Turn off all pagers and cell phones before entering class. I accept the right to answer any that ring.

Finally, cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. The policy can be accessed here: <http://www.csus.edu/umannual/student/stu-0100.htm>. If you are caught engaging in such activities, you will receive an F, and will be reported to the campus Judicial Affairs Officer.

Writing Center:

For free, one-on-one help with reading or writing in any class, visit the University Reading and Writing Center (URWC) in Calaveras 128. The URWC can help you at any stage in your reading and writing processes: coming up with a topic, developing and organizing a draft, understanding difficult texts, or developing strategies to become a better editor. Students can sign up for up to an hour a week with a tutor by visiting the URWC in CLV 128—visit the URWC during week two of the semester to sign up for regular weekly tutoring. Students may drop in at any time, but the best time to drop is during our “drop-in only” hours M-R 2:00-4:00. We also offer tutoring for one unit of academic credit through ENGL121. For URWC hours and more information, visit the website at www.csus.edu/writingcenter.

Basic Needs Support

If you are experiencing challenges in the area of food and/or stable housing, help is just a click, email or phone call away! Sacramento State offers basic needs support for students who are experiencing challenges in these areas. Please visit our Basic Needs website to learn more about your options and resources available. <https://www.csus.edu/basicneeds/>

Taking care of your mental health is an important part of being successful in college. If you are struggling or need mental health support, contact Student Health and Counseling Services at (916) 278-6461. Student Health and Counseling Services offers individual, couples, group, and urgent care counseling; mindfulness courses; and stress management workshops.

Exams:

Four exams will be given throughout the semester but only three will be applied toward the final grade, allowing students to drop (or miss) one during the course of the semester. All exams are taken online and are taken over the weekend. A missed exam for any reason counts as the dropped exam. Each exam will consist of several short answer questions and a number of multiple-choice questions. Questions for the exams will derive from the class discussions, lectures, videos, readings and on-line discussion postings. All Exams will be taken online. NOTE: To complete the exams, you must use Lockdown Browser, which you have to download onto the computer. The exams are worth 15% each, for a total of 45% of your total grade. (Learning Objectives 1, 3, 4)

Lockdown Browser: This is required for all Exams. Without this, you will be unable to take the exams. The campus computers have this set up on them. *Monitor Webcam* may be used if needed. Use the following link to download and install LockDown Browser: <https://download.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=649212172>

Assignments:

Writing Requirement

The required writing, including the papers, short assignments and project assessments fulfill the 1500 word required writing of any GE course.

Popular Culture Artifact Descriptions: Throughout the semester, we will be engaging popular culture artifacts. You will have to submit for each of these a description about some aspect of the popular culture artifact. You will submit 8 of the 9 of these, which will be used for the three Artifact Analysis Papers (see below) you choose to write and submit. Consider this your information/evidence/data to help support your argument in the Artifact Analysis Papers. There is no word/page length. Just thoroughly answer the questions/analyze the artifact. Too short usually reflects lower quality and thus will lose points. This will worth 10% of your total grade. (Learning Objectives: 1, 2)

Artifact Analysis Papers: Drawing on the popular culture artifact descriptions, you will be analyzing that information to help you to write papers. There are nine one-two page papers that require an analysis of

popular culture. You will be required to turn in 3 of them throughout the semester. You will choose which of the assignments you will write about, but each specific paper has an assigned due date. Within each paper, you will analyze the specific popular culture item (some require you to analyze something in your life or a friend's life, while others are a specific item), using the articles from the class to help explain the key points of analysis you are identifying. You will develop an argument using this artifact. It is best to focus on one idea in each paper (such as race, gender, attractiveness, power, etc) and discuss how it relates to the society (this is how you bring in the articles). Use at least 2-3 references (ASA citation) in each paper (at least 2 from class reader). These will be worth 25% of your total grade. This will address the majority of the 1500 word requirement as a GE course. (Learning Objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4...depending on the paper topic chosen). (NOTE: you are still required to read/watch/engage all of the popular culture artifacts that are being used for the analysis papers, as they will be in the exams. Using artifacts in a paper does not count as a reference.)

A title page is expected on all papers, which will contain the following information: Title of the paper, your name, the name of the class (Sociology 135 for those of you not paying attention) and **your Thesis**.

All papers will be submitted through Turnitin in Canvas, so make sure you review plagiarism in the policies on campus and use correct citations (see ASA links to help with that).

Class Reading Reflections: You are required to turn in seven reflections from the class readings (you can not submit an article from the first set of readings). They all are peer reviewed, academic readings, not the mainstream readings. You will be turning in seven reading reflections throughout the semester (that means you can skip two, as there are nine possible due dates). You choose which readings you will be turning in, but you can only turn in one for each set of readings that are due during that class (i.e. only one turned in each day), and the assignments are due on the day of class the reading is due (first day of a new topic). No make-ups for these are possible, unless you choose to use one of your extensions. These are considered 1 page reflections that you are expected to apply a reading, or a concept from a reading (or readings if they relate) to something in the world around you (you can use these to help expand your journals). See the reading due dates and explanation online to identify which articles you can use and when each is due. Reading assignments will be worth 10% of your total grade. (Learning Objectives 1, 2, 4, 5)

Class Assignments: Throughout the semester, a series of short assignments will be given that incorporate the concepts of the class into your own lives. They will be both given out during class and on the web, so you will need to periodically check the web for new assignments. An assignment due date will be established in class, or will be established online. No make-ups for these are possible, unless you choose to use one of your extensions, and that is only available to be used on assignments.

Some of these may be 1 minute writing assignments in class to engage the ideas. The question/topic will be given in class and due that same day. No make-ups for these are possible, unless you choose to use one of your extensions. If you use an extension, the assignment will be a one page, typed paper due the next class period. (Learning Objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4)

Discussion Postings: Throughout the semester, discussion posting questions will be presented throughout the semester. Students will have at least one week (a due date will be established for each posting) to have students engage ideas from class and readings outside of class with other students. These postings will help students to understand ideas/concepts from the class, as well as help to facilitate discussion in the class. Students are required to respond to the question, and then respond to at least two other students' comments until the due date (at 10p). (Learning Objectives: 1, 3, 4)

Class Assignments and Discussion Postings will be worth 10% of your total grade.

Grading Scale*

A	=	92-100
A-	=	90-91
B+	=	88-89
B	=	82-87
C+	=	78-79
B-	=	80-81
C	=	72-77
C-	=	70-71
D+	=	68-69
D	=	62-67
D-	=	60-61
F	=	59 or below

* This scale may be lowered but will not be raised

Grade Breakdown

3 Exams * 15%=	45%
Artifact Descriptions=	10%
Artifact Analysis Papers =	25%
Reading Reflections =	10%
Class Assig/discussion =	<u>10%</u>
Total =	100%

Calendar:

TOPIC:

January 21: Introduction and Overview

READING DUE ON FIRST DAY:

January 23-30: Culture Concepts

Askin, et al.; Crossman; Gramsci; Fiske
Little Black Sambo

February 4-13: Power, Commodity, and Inequality

Gitlin; King; Monk-Turner, et. al
Mihailidis & Viotty

February 4: Popular Artifact Description Due: Opera vs Rap

February 11: Paper 1: What is Popular Culture Analysis Due

February 13: Popular Artifact Description: Advertisements

Exam 1 Due: February 18, 10p

February 18-25: News and Power

Becker & Bode; Lee; Lee; Goldacre

February 20: Paper 2: Power through Advertising Analysis Tsipursky & Morford

February 27-March 5: Technology: Internet

Christofides, et al; Lalancette & Raynauld
Boxman-Shabtai

February 27; Popular Artifact: Daily Show Description

March 5: Paper 3: News production: The Daily Show

March 5: Popular Artifact: Meme Description

March 10-12: Written: Books and Comics

Facciani, et al; King; Taylor; Parker

March 12: Paper 4: "Boca State of Mind" Youtube Analysis Due

Brightest Day

Exam 2 Due, March 17, 10p

March 17-24: Television

Schildcrout; Tahmahkera;
Blakeborough, Valby

March 17: Popular Artifact: Comic Book Description

March 24: Paper 5: Comic Book Analysis Due

March 26: Guest Speaker: Dr. J. Johnson: Movies: Marvel Universe

Demby

March 27: Class Assignment: Presentation Response

March 30-April 3: Spring Break: Enjoy; March 31: Cesar Chavez Holiday (Campus Closed)

April 7-16: Movies

Bethmann; Johnson & Holmes;
Li-Vollmer & LaPointe; Lowry

April 7: Popular Artifact: South Park Description

April 14: Paper 6: South Park Analysis Due

April 16: Popular Artifact: Movie Description

Exam 3 Due: April 21, 10p

April 21-23: Sports

Churchill; Hughes; Burns

April 21: Paper 7: Buddy/Romantic Comedy Analysis Due

April 23: Sport Brand Description Due

April 28-30: Fans and Fanatics

Halverson & Halverson; Allington
Reysen & Branscombe

April 28: Paper 8: Sports Analysis

April 30: Popular Artifact: Interview Due

May 5-7: Celebrity Culture

Barton; Curnutt; Kim & Song;
Seeman

May 5: Paper 9: Fanatic Analysis Due

May 14, Thursday, Exam 4 Due, 5p.