Title of the Course: IED 258 (02) British Popular Culture
Semester: Spring 2020
Class Hours and Classroom: Monday 13:00-15:50 B2/205
Instructor: Assist. Prof. Dr. Ashş Değirmenci
E-Mail: aslidegirmenci01@gmail.com
Office Hours: Tuesday 09:00-11:00
Google Drive Folder: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1OYaBMC5bLE3N8T0ZRO9J7R0SY7se6Wiq

Aim of the Course: This course aims to familiarize the students with contemporary British popular culture along with key theoretical concepts. For this purpose, the course focuses on a detailed study of British Popular Culture through the discussions of articles and selected texts, both literary and cultural.

Fiction:
- A Study in Scarlet (1887) by Arthur Conan Doyle

Films:
- Pride
- Green Street Hooligans
- This is England

Documentaries:
“Mods, Rockers and Bank Holiday Mayhem”, BBC Timeshift
Let Us Entertain You, Four Episodes, BBC

TV Series:
“A Study in Pink” Season 1 episode 1 of BBC series Sherlock (2010)
The Great British Bake Off. Series 9, episode 6
Years and Years, Season 1, six episodes

Course Outline:

Week 1 (Feb 24th): Overview of the syllabus. General Introduction.
In class viewing: Dominic Sandbrook: Let Us Entertain You Episode 1/4
https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6l312m

Week 2 & 3 (March 2nd-9th): Definitions of ‘Culture,’ ‘High Culture,’ ‘Mass Culture’ and ‘Popular Culture.’ Production/Consumption and the Popular; History of Popular Culture
- “Understanding the Popular” by John Fiske in Reading the Popular.
- An Introduction to Theories of Popular Culture by Dominic Strinati (2004, Routledge)- pages 1-46
- Watch: Dominic Sandbrook: Let Us Entertain You Episode 2/4
https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6rjc5h

Week 4 (March 16th): Consumer Culture and Advertising
- “Shopping For Pleasure” by John Fiske in Reading the Popular
- “Materiality and Popular Culture” by John Storey
Week 5 (March 23rd): Convergence Culture: Example of Harry Potter
  - “The Magic System of Advertising” in Re-Reading Harry Potter
  - “Wizarding Whirled: An Introduction” in Harry Potter and Convergence Culture: Essays on Fandom and the Expanding Potterverse
  - “Pottermania: Good Clean Fun or Cultural Hegemony?” from Critical Perspectives on Harry Potter

Week 6 (March 30th): Adaptation Studies: The example of Sherlock
  - A Study in Scarlet (1887) by Arthur Conan Doyle
  - Watch before class: “A Study in Pink” Season 1 episode 1 of BBC series Sherlock (2010)
  - Articles in google drive folder

Week 7 (April 6th): Subcultures in Britain, Fashion
  - https://www.sutori.com/story/the-story-of-british-youth-subcultures--NawTrCzauCD8NU5x93Wa1DJu
  - https://www.theguardian.com/culture/gallery/2011/jul/10/10-best-british-youth-cultures
  - “Reggae, Rastafarians and Revolution” by James A. Winders.
  - Fashion in Popular Culture from “A Companion to Popular Culture”
  - Watch before class: “Mods, Rockers and Bank Holiday Mayhem”, BBC Timeshift
  - Watch before class: This is England
  - Prepare 5 questions for each of the texts and the document

Week 8 (April 13th): MIDTERM

Week 9 (April 20th): Popular Fiction, Bestsellers, Genre Fiction
  - Good Omens
  - Articles in google drive folder

Week 10 (April 27th): Fan Culture and Celebrity Culture
  - Watch: Dominic Sandbrook: Let Us Entertain You Episode 3/4
  - Watch: Dominic Sandbrook: Let Us Entertain You Episode 4/4
  - The Appeal of Royal Family
  - Guest Lecturer: Ece Çakır

Week 11 (May 4th): Hegemony and the Carnivalesque
  - Articles in google drive folder
  - Watch before class: Pride

Week: 12 (May 11th): British Food and Drink Culture.
  - Articles in google drive folder
  - The Great British Bake Off: Series 9, episode 6
  - https://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/21/magazine/the-great-british-baking-show-is-the-key-to-understanding-todays-britain.html

Week 13 (May 18th): Popular Music and Sports
  - Brit Awards
  - Articles in google drive folder
  - Watch before class: Green Street Hooligans
  - TERM PAPER DUE (to be uploaded to Turnitin)

Week 14 (May 25th): No Class. National Holiday (Ramazan Bayrami)
Method of Instruction: Class meetings will consist of the discussion of the assigned material. Students are expected to participate in the class discussions, which is a major requirement and will affect the end-of-term evaluation.

Requirements: The students are expected to attend the classes having read the assigned material. Attendance is obligatory. More than 11 (eleven) hours of absence will result in F1.

Term Paper: The students are also expected to write a term paper that analyses a popular culture element in Britain. They can choose their subject from one of the many elements of popular culture Dominic Sandbrook talks about in his documentary series *Let Us Entertain You*. The paper needs to be between 1000-1500 words and written in MLA style. **The paper is due on May 18th.** Term paper is required to be uploaded to the turnitin.com. The class id and the enrolment key for this class is as follows:

Class ID: **24022925**
Enrollment Key: **123456**

Assessment: Assessment will be as the following:
- Mid-Term Examination: 25 %
- Paper Assignment: 20 %
- Class Participation: 5 %
- Final Examination: 50%

In the grading of the exam papers, up to 25% of the total mark might be taken off for grammatical and writing mistakes. Marks below 50 (out of 100) in the Final Exam will be regarded as failure.

Suggested Reading List: