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 non-literary.

Course Outline:


Reading:
- Storey, John. *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture*. Chapter I (What is Culture?).
- Fiske, John. “Popular Culture.” Chapter I. *(Reading the Popular)*

Week III: Production/Consumption and the Popular.

Reading:
- Williams, Raymond. “Advertising the Magic System.”
- Bingöl, Sinem. “The High/Popular Culture Paradigm of Consumerism in Britain.”
- Fiske, John. “Shopping for Pleasure.” Chapter II. *(Reading the Popular)*
- Craig, Philip and Peter Jackson. “Geographies of Consumption.” 327-342.

Week IV: Hegemony and the Carnivalesque (Gramsci, Bakhtin and the Notting Hill Carnival)

Reading:
- Stallybrass, Peter, and Allon White. “Bourgeoisie Hysteria and the Carnivalesque.”

Week V: Popularization of the Marginal and Popular Music.

Reading:
- Straw, Will. “Characterizing Rock Music Culture: The Case of Heavy Metal.”


Week VI: Movie: *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*

Week VII: Midterm I (29 March 2012)

Week VIII: Subcultures in Britain (Youth, Black, Black-Asian, Gay/Lesbian)

Reading:
- Cherrington, Ruth. “Youth in Britain Today.”
- Kumar, Krishan. “‘Englishness’ and English National Identity.” 41-55.

Watch: Trainspotting, My Beautiful Laundrette.
Listen: “Another Brick in the Wall” by Pink Floyd
“Fuck the British Army” Irish Rebel Song
“Chop Suey” by System of a Down

Week IX: Sports and British Popular Culture.
Reading: Bourdieu, Pierre. “How Can One be a Sports Fan?”
Conley, Michaela. “Sports: Is it just Entertainment?” www.medialit.org
Tomlinson, Alan. “Sport, Leisure and Style.” 399-416

Listen: “Zadok the Priest” Handel (aka. Champions League Anthem)
“Amigos Para Siempre” by Sarah Brightman and Jose Carreras

Week X: British Food and Drink Culture.

Week XI-XII: Television, Cinema and Popular Culture
Reading: Spier, Robert H. “We are What We Watch, We Watch What We are.”
Corner, John. “Television as Culture: Duties and Pleasures.”
Davis, Francis J. “Power of Images: Creating the Myths of our Time.”

Watch: Green Street Hooligans.
Listen: “Video Killed the Radio Star” by Buggles

Week XIII: Midterm II (10 May 2012)

Week: XIV: Social Media and Popular Culture.
Reading: Chandler, Daniel. “Personal Homepages and the Construction of Identities.”

Method of Instruction: Class meetings will consist of the presentation and 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. Students are also expected to prepare 15-minute group presentations, which will include the analysis of and their research about the assigned subject and reading material. The presentations will be delivered in the form of a paper in a week after the presentation. No appearance on the presentation day results in F3.

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. In 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.

Assessment:
Participation: 10%
Presentations: 10%
Midterm examinations: 40%
Final exam: 40%