

HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF LETTERS
Department of English Language and Literature

Title of the Course: İED 258 (03) British Popular Culture

Semester: Spring 2017

Class Hours and Classroom: Monday 13:00-15:50 B8/B03

Office Hours: Monday 09:00-11:45

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.

Course Outline:

Week I: General Introduction. Definitions of ‘Culture,’ ‘High Culture,’ ‘Mass Culture’ and ‘Popular Culture.’

Week II - III: Production/Consumption and the Popular

- “What is Popular Culture?” by John Storey in *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture*.
- “Understanding the Popular” by John Fiske in *Reading the Popular*.
- “The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception” by Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer in *Cultural Studies Reader*.
- “Advertising the Magic System” by Raymond Williams in *Cultural Studies Reader*.
- “Worship at the Altar of Convergence: A New Paradigm for Understanding Media Change” (2006) in *Convergence Culture: Where Old and New Media Collide* by Henry Jenkins.

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

- “Bakhtin’s carnival” in *Bakhtinian Thought: An Introductory Reader* (1994) by Simon Dentith.

Week V-VI: Adaptation Studies

- Popularization of High Culture, the case of Shakespearean Tragedy
- “Recent Shakespeare Adaptation and the Mutations of Cultural Capital” by Douglas Lanier.
- Introduction: “To think o’th’ten that I have turned you to’: The Scholarly Consideration of Teen Shakespeare Films.”
- Cinematic Adaptation of Daniel Defoe’s *Robinson Crusoe*
- “Countering the Source: Postcolonialist Robinson Crusoe on Screen” in “A Bakhtinian Analysis of Robinsonades: Literary and Cinematic Adaptation of Daniel Defoe’s *Robinson Crusoe*” (Unpublished Thesis) by Seda Öz.
- *Romeo + Juliet*

Week VII-VIII: Popularization of the Marginal and Popular Music

- “Characterizing Rock Music Culture: The Case of Heavy Metal” by Will Straw.
- “Retrenchment and Rebellion” (2013) in *Britishness, Popular Music, and National Identity: The Making of Modern Britain* by Irene Morra.

Week IX: MID-TERM EXAMINATION**Week X-XI: Subcultures in Britain**

- “The Function of Subculture” by Dick Hebdige in *The Cultural Studies Reader*.
- “Reggae, Rastafarians and Revolution” by James A. Winders.
- “British ‘Yoof’ on Drugs: A Reading of Irvine Welsh’s *Trainspotting* in the Light of Subculture Theory” by Sinan Akıllı.

Week XII: Sports and British Popular Culture

- “How Can One be a Sports Fan?” by Pierre Bourdieu.
- “Hooligans? What Hooligans?” by Can Abanazır.

Watch: *Green Street Hooligans*

Week XIII: British Food and Drink Culture

- “Bitter-Sweet Conversions: Changing Times for the British Pub” by John C. Everitt.
- “The National Diet” in *Food and Cultural Studies* (2004) by Bob Ashley.
- “Food and Class” by Alan Warde.

Week: XIV: Popular Fiction

- Akıllı, Sinan. “Spinning Yarns of Imperial (Ad)venture: G. A. Henty’s Promotion of British Imperial Ideology in African Adventure Novels.”

Course Book: There will be a course pack which the instructor will provide.

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.

Assessment: Assessment will be as the following:

- Paper 20 %
- Mid-Term Examination: 20 %
- Class Participation: 10 %
- 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:

- Barker, Chris. *Cultural Studies: Theory and Practice*. London: Sage, 2008.
- Brottman, Nikita. *High Theory, Low Culture*. New York: Palgrave, 2005.
- Fiske, John. *Understanding Popular Culture*. New York: Routledge, 1989.
- Hall, Stuart and Tony Jefferson, eds. *Resistance Through Rituals: Youth Subcultures in Post-war Britain*. Birmingham: Routledge, 1976.
- Hermes, Joke. *Re-reading Popular Culture*. Malden: Blackwell, 2005.
- Storey, John. *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture*. Harlow: Pearson Education, 2009.