Hacettepe University  
Faculty of Letters  
Department of English Language and Literature

SYLLABUS

Title of the Course: IED 258 (01) British Popular Culture  
Course Credits: 3 (national), 5 ECTS  
Course Status: Required  
Semester: Spring 2018  
Instructor: Dr. Sinan Akilli  
Office Hours: To be announced.  
Campus Phone: 0 312 297 8475 – Ext. 133  
Email Address: sinanakilli@gmail.com  
Class Schedule: Wed. 09:00 – 11:50, Room: B2/203

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION (Aim and Content):
This course aims to familiarize students with the key theoretical concepts, the historical background and contemporary state of Popular Culture, with special emphasis on British Popular Culture. For this end, the course focuses on a detailed study of British Popular Culture through the discussions of key scholarly articles and selected texts, both literary and cultural.

II. COURSE OUTLINE
Week I (Feb. 14) Intro, Definitions of key terms and concepts  
Week II (Feb. 21) Neo-Gramscian Interpretation of Popular Culture  
Week III (Feb. 28) British Popular Culture up to the 19th century: Teratology, magic, witchcraft, popular astrology  
Week IV (Mar. 07) 19th century British Imperialism and Popular Culture  
Week V (Mar. 14) MIDTERM I  
Week VI (Mar. 21) Production/Consumption and the Popular  
Week VII (Mar. 28) Hegemony and the Carnivalesque (Gramsci, Bakhtin)  
Week VIII (Apr. 04) Popularization of High Culture, the case of Shakespearean Tragedy  
Week IX (Apr. 11) Subcultures  
Week X (Apr. 18) MIDTERM II  
Week XI (Apr. 25) Sports and British Popular Culture  
Week XII (May 02) Convergence and Popular Culture  
Week XIII (May 09) British Food and Drink Culture  
Week XIV (May 16) Overall evaluation

III. METHOD OF INSTRUCTION: Lectures, class discussions, and student presentations.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND STUDENT CONDUCT: Class attendance is obligatory and failure to attend one-third or more of the class hours will result in an F1. “No shows” on exam or group presentation days will not be compensated for by assignment of extra work, so do not ask for it. If a student has documented excuse accepted by the Faculty Academic Board in accordance with University Regulations, a make-up exam will be given. Questions, discussion, and disagreement are all encouraged in this class. However, any kind of disruptive behavior will never be tolerated.

Likewise, academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. This includes all forms of plagiarism, cheating on assignments or exams, turning in work that has been written partially or entirely by someone else (this includes websites), failing to appropriately represent and
document sources, fabricating information or citations, or helping another student commit an act of academic dishonesty.

V. ASSESSMENT: There will be two midterm examinations (15% each), one 45-minute group presentation (10% presentation + 10% paper = 20%), and a final exam (50%). For a passing grade, students must get at least 50 out of 100 in the final exam. Up to 10% of the total score in each exam will be deducted for poor English (e.g. bad grammar, worse spelling, etc.).

The topics for 45-minute group presentations will be assigned by the instructor at the beginning of the semester. Presentations will start in Week III and consist of the reflections of group members on the assigned subject/text after a brief introduction. Presentations must be based on student reflections and submitted in hard copy form (between 7-10 pages long, typed, double-spaced, grammatically correct), which must fully comply with *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th edition, within the two weeks following the presentation. Up to 10% of the total score in submitted papers will be deducted for poor English, and up to 20% for incompliance with the MLA style. Failure to submit papers within the designated two-week period will result in the automatic taking away of 10 points out of 100 for each successive weekday until the paper is submitted (maximum of 3 weekdays are tolerated).

VI. REQUIRED READING: There is no textbook for this course. Necessary reading material and handouts will be provided by the instructor, to be photocopied by students.

**Week I:** Lecture slides

**Week II:**

**Week III:**
From *Malleus Maleficarum,* “Extraordinary News from Constantinople.”
Smith, Norman R. “Portent Lore and Medieval Popular Culture.” in *Popular Culture in the Middle Ages.*

**Week IV:**
From *The Girl’s Own Paper*

**Week VI:**
Fiske, John. “Shopping for Pleasure.” in *Reading the Popular.*

**Week VII:**
Week VIII: Film: *Romeo + Juliet*
Johnson, Steven. “The Sleeper Curve” in *Everything Bad is Good for You.*

Week IX: Akıllı, Sinan. “British Youth on Drugs: A Reading of Irvine Welsh’s *Trainspotting* in the Light of Subculture Theory.”

