Title of the Course: IED 258 (01A) British Popular Culture  
Course Credits: 3 (national), 5 ECTS  
Course Status: Required  
Semester: Spring 2014  
Instructor: Dr. Sinan Akilli  
Office Hours: Walk-in on Thursdays 10:00-12:00  
Campus Phone: 0 312 297 8475 – Ext. 133  
Email Address: sinanakilli@gmail.com  
Class Schedule: Fri. 10:00 – 12:50, Room: B2/204  
Course Web Site: -

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION (Aim and Content):  
This course aims to familiarise 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. 21) Intro, Definitions of key terms and concepts  
Week II (Feb. 28) Neo-Gramscian Interpretation of Popular Culture  
Week III (Mar. 07) British Popular Culture up to the 19th century: Teratology, magic, witchcraft, popular astrology  
Week IV (Mar. 14) 19th century British Imperialism and Popular Culture  
Week V (Mar. 21) MIDTERM I  
Week VI (Mar. 28) Production/Consumption and the Popular  
Week VII (Apr. 04) Hegemony and the Carnivalesque (Gramsci, Bakhtin)  
Week VIII (Apr. 11) Popularization of High Culture, the case of Shakespearean Tragedy  
Week IX (Apr. 18) Subcultures  
Week X (Apr. 25) MIDTERM II  
Week XI (May 02) Sports and British Popular Culture  
Week XII (May 09) Digital Popular Culture  
Week XIII (May 16) British Food and Drink Culture  
Week XIV (May 23) British Cinema and British Popular Culture

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 30-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, on the final exam date. 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 on the final exam date 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 VIII: Film: *Romeo + Juliet* Johnson, Steven. “The Sleeper Curve” in *Everything Bad is Good for You*. 


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


Week XII: Chandler, Daniel. “Homepages and the Construction of Identities on the Web.”


Week XIV: Film: *A Clockwork Orange* (1971)


Smith, Justin. “A Clockwork Orange.” in *Withnail and Us: Cult Films and Film Cults in British Cinema*.