COURSE OVERVIEW

In this course, we survey major themes and questions in the sociology of culture. We do so in three broad sections:

1. We begin by developing a “vocabulary” that is drawn from a variety of approaches. This new vocabulary allows us to address such questions as “What is culture and what does it do?”

2. We then examine the classical treatments of culture found in the respective works of Marx, Weber, and Durkheim. Examples of current issues include the following: “How do media messages shape our view of reality?” “How do people in one group exclude those from another group?” “What holds groups together?”

3. In the final section of the course, we focus on the role that culture plays in production, by looking at two substantive areas: work and technology. Thus, we will deal with such issues as “How does culture influence the organization of work?” and “How do technology and culture shape each other?”

There is a Blackboard site devoted to this course (Soc221: Culture and Society). This site will include all materials that we hand out in class (the syllabus, instructions for the paper, etc.), as well as outlines of the lectures. Any important announcements will also be posted on this site.

COURSE MATERIALS


2. Reserve readings

   There are also additional required readings, which will be on the LIBRARY’s ELECTRONIC RESERVE site. These will also be available as PDF files on our BLACKBOARD site.

   This course offers an introductory survey of the sociology of culture; thus the readings cover a wide range of original sociological research. Some of the readings are more difficult than others. I will give you guidance on “how” to read the articles, particularly the more difficult ones.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance is strongly encouraged. I will use lectures to give you additional information not found in the readings, and I will also provide frameworks for understanding and integrating the readings with the lecture material. All assigned readings should be completed before class to ensure active participation in class discussions and activities. As an incentive, regular attendance will be used to “improve” on borderline final grades.

2. Three exams. (Each exam is worth 20% of the final grade)
Each exam will be taken during class time (see following pages for scheduled dates). The exams will consist of a combination of short answer and essay questions, and they will cover both the readings and lecture material. (NONE of the exams is cumulative.)

3. Research Paper (40% of the final grade)
***Detailed Instructions will be handed out in class!***
The paper involves a research project that you will complete over the course of the semester. You may choose a paper topic from a list that we hand out, or you may propose a topic of your own choosing (subject to our approval by March 21).
- An outline of your paper is due on April 11.
- The completed paper is due on Tuesday May 7th by 5:00pm in my box in the Sociology Office, 225 Tarbutton Hall (Do NOT send me your paper by email). For each day it is late, it will be marked down one half letter grade (e.g., from A to A- after first day late).

SOME GROUND RULES

General Communication
I provide very detailed information and instructions in all of the course documents. I will also send periodic BlackBoard announcements and/or emails about any further course information.
- Please read all of the written Course communications thoroughly!
- If you have questions after you have read everything in a particular course document (syllabus, paper instructions, study guide), then feel free to ask me.
- Do NOT ask/email me questions that I have already answered in a course document or via posted announcement/emails. I will not respond to these questions.

Email Communication:
I generally try to respond to emails within 24 hrs, but I do not guarantee a response within 24 hrs.
I do not answer emails after 8pm at night.

General Conduct:
Please be mindful of the general code of conduct that you would use in any classroom setting. I expect us all to be respectful of one another.
- Please do not arrive late to class.
- Once in class, please refrain from carrying on private conversations with your neighbor(s). This is distracting for everyone else in the room.
- Please refrain from texting, checking Facebook, or any other non-class activities during all class meetings. If you are found to be engaging in these activities, you will be asked to leave the classroom for the remainder of the class.

The use of cell phones is not permitted in this class. Please turn OFF your phones before entering the classroom.
**Missed Classes:** You are responsible for missed material. Please get notes from one of your classmates. After you have read all of the missed material, if you still have questions, please come to my office hours. (Do not email me to ask about missed class material.)

**Video/Audio:** You may not video or audiotape lectures without my express consent.

**Extra Credit:** There are no extra credit assignments available in this course.

**Make-Up Policy:**
Makeup exams will **only** be allowed in a situation of an excused absence (e.g., illness, family emergency). If you are going to miss an exam, please make every effort to notify me before the missed class. A mutually convenient time will be arranged for you to make up the exam.

**OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**Accommodating Disabilities:**
If you have or acquire any sort of condition that may require special accommodation(s), please inform me as soon as possible so that we may make the appropriate arrangements. Proper documentation from the Office of Disabilities Services will be required. They can be reached at 404-727-1065 or via the web at [http://www.emory.edu/EOO/ODS/](http://www.emory.edu/EOO/ODS/).

**Academic Conduct:**
Emory College has established an Honor Code outlining an appropriate code of conduct with respect to academic honesty and plagiarism. Information on Emory’s Honor code can be accessed at: [http://www.college.emory.edu/current/standards/honor_code.html](http://www.college.emory.edu/current/standards/honor_code.html).

It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the policies and procedures of the university, and violation of these policies will result in referral to the Honor Council. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. You must ensure that you cite references appropriately in your written work. When you paraphrase from others, cite their work in the text, and reference the citation in your bibliography. When you use direct quotes from others, be sure to insert quotation marks around the borrowed text and cite appropriately.

Honor Code Statement: I pledge to pursue all academic endeavors with honor and integrity. I understand the principles of the Emory College Honor System, and I promise to uphold these standards by adhering to the Honor Code in order to preserve the integrity of Emory College and its individual members.
COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to revision)

SECTION ONE: DEVELOPING A VOCABULARY

Jan 15: Introductions

Jan 17: Wendy Griswold. 2012. CSCW, Chapter 1. Film: Barbie Nation


SECTION TWO: CLASSICAL TREATMENTS AND THEIR CONTEMPORARY COUNTERPARTS

I. Marxian Approaches: Ideology, Domination, and Resistance

Introduction to Marx


Current Notions of Ideology: Focus on Media


Feb 14: Review for Exam 1

Feb 19: EXAM #1
II. Weberian Approaches: Status and Exclusion

Introduction to Weber


Work, Status, and Exclusion


Feb 28: Film: Spellbound

Mar 5: Spellbound Discussion; Cultural Capital Theories


March 12 & 14: SPRING BREAK!

III. Durkheimian Approaches: Solidarity, Community, and Boundaries

Introduction to Durkheim


Solidarity and Modern Times


April 2: Review for Exam 2

April 4: EXAM #2
SECTION THREE: CULTURE AND SOCIETY

I. Culture in Organizations


Apr 11: Paper Outline Due


II. Culture, Technology, and Community

Apr 18: Wendy Griswold. 2012. CSCW, Pages 141-155

Apr 18 (cont) READING TBA.


Apr 25: READING TBA.

FINAL EXAM SCHEDULED times:
T/Th 11:30 section: Tuesday, May 7, 8:30am-11:00am
T/Th 2:30 section: Thursday, May 2, 4:30pm-7:00pm

May 7: FINAL PAPER DUE by 5pm in Dr. Scott’s box, Tarbutton 225