

SOC419 s.851  
Culture and Society  
Winter 2006  
MTWRF 9-11:50 a.m.  
TBA

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### Course Description

This course provides a general overview of the sociology of culture. It will introduce you to the major theoretical frameworks and key themes in this growing field. We begin with basic conceptual questions about the definition and importance of culture as a dimension of social life. We then explore various theoretical approaches to understanding culture, including the Marxist, Durkheimian, and Weberian perspectives. With this theoretical grounding, we examine social processes involved in the production and reception of culture. Finally, we turn to the intersection of culture and social structure, including how culture shapes class, race, and gender interactions and identities.

### Course Materials

The main text for this course is:

Griswold, Wendy. 2004. *Culture and Societies in a Changing World, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.

Other required readings are located on the University of Arizona's Desire2Learn (D2L) website. Students should log in at <http://d2l.arizona.edu/>. They should check the website regularly for announcements and other important course information. Lecture slides will be made accessible through D2L.

### Course Requirements

Participation	10%
Quizzes (5 quizzes @ 2% each)	10%
Journal (7 entries @ 5% each)	35%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	<u>25%</u>
	100%

The participation grade is based on active, thoughtful, and respectful participation. Students are expected to attend all classes, arrive on time, and to discuss the assigned readings and course materials. 5% of the participation grade will be based on attendance and 5% will be based on individual contribution or contribution through in-class group work. Although students are not expected to speak every class, they are expected to contribute on a regular basis.

Quizzes will be given in six classes. These 20-minute quizzes are based on the class materials and required readings. They test whether students are attending lectures, comprehending course materials, and keeping up with the materials. Although they are considered “pop-quizzes,” they are usually announced a class-day in advance. The format of the quizzes is short answers. Students will take 6 quizzes and only the top 5 quiz grades will count towards their final quiz grade.

Students must complete a journal comprised of 7 entries. Journal entries are designed so that students engage closely and analytically the course concepts and see the many ways these concepts surround them in their daily lives. Please see the journal guidelines for further details, including the due date and late policy.

The midterm and final exams evaluate knowledge of the key concepts and main arguments covered in the readings, lectures, discussions, and films. The format of the tests is true/false, multiple choice, short answers, and/or short essay.

## **Course Grades**

Course grades are assigned as follows:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
E	< 59%

## **Academic Integrity, Classroom Behavior, Special Needs, and Class Absences**

Please see the attached statement provided by the Department of Sociology on official policies on academic integrity, classroom behavior, special needs, and officially excused absences.

## **A Caveat: Readings/Workload**

This is an upper-division reading-intensive course with a heavy yet reasonable workload. Although the readings have been reduced for pre-session, students are still expected to read about 40 pages per day. Students must complete the reading before the date for which it is assigned. Student should keep up with the readings and plan accordingly. All readings are mandatory unless indicated as optional. Optional readings often provide the backbone of the lecture.

## References

Below are several references that students may find helpful throughout the course. These are works covering key theories and concepts in the sociology of culture. A leading culture journal is *Poetics* which publishes empirical work on culture by sociologists. Students can access this journal through the University of Arizona library catalogue.

Alexander, Jeffrey and Steven Seidman, eds. 1990. *Culture and Society: Contemporary Debates*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Bennett, Andy. 2005. *Culture and Everyday Life*. London: Sage Publications.

Bennett, Andy and Elizabeth B. Silva, eds. 2003. *Contemporary Culture and Everyday Life*. Durham, NC: Sociology Press.

Bennett, Tony, Lawrence Grossberg, and Meaghan Morris, eds. 2005. *New Keywords: A Revised Vocabulary of Culture and Society*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Crane, Diana, ed. 1994. *The Sociology of Culture: Emerging Theoretical Perspectives*. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell.

Hall, John R., Mary Jo Nietz, and Marshall Battani. 2003. *Sociology on Culture*. New York: Routledge.

Inglis, David and John Hughson. 2003. *Confronting Culture: Sociological Vistas*. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press.

Jacobs, Mark D. and Nancy Weiss Hanrahan, eds. 2005. *The Blackwell Companion to the Sociology of Culture*. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell.

Smith, Phillip, ed. 1998. *The New American Cultural Sociology*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Spillman, Lyn, ed. 2002. *Cultural Sociology*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Williams, Raymond. 1981. *The Sociology of Culture*. New York: Schocken Books.

## Syllabus Changes

The following policy has been approved by the University Faculty Senate. The information contained in this course syllabus other than the grade and absence policies may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

## Course Schedule

### I. Introduction

M December 18

#### **Course Introduction**

- Introductions
- Go over syllabus
- Go over journal assignment

#### **Introduction to Culture**

- Williams, Raymond. 1983. "Culture." Pp. 63-69 in *Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society*. New York: Oxford University Press. [Distributed in Class]
- Becker, Howard S. 1982. "Culture: A Sociological View." *Yale Review* 71: 513-527. [OPTIONAL]
- Peterson, Richard A. 1979. "Revitalizing the Culture Concept." *Annual Review of Sociology* 5: 137-66. [OPTIONAL]
- Sewell, William H. 1999. "The Concept(s) of Culture." Pp.35-61 in *Beyond the Cultural Turn: New Directions in the Study of Society and Culture*, edited by Victoria Bonnell and Lynn E. Hunt. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. [OPTIONAL]
- Spillman, Lyn. 2002. "Introduction: Culture and Cultural Sociology." Pp.1-15 in *Cultural Sociology*, edited by Lyn Spillman. Malden, MA: Blackwell. [OPTIONAL]

T December 19

#### **Perspectives on Culture: Humanities versus Social Sciences**

- Griswold, "Chapter 1: Culture and the Cultural Diamond," pp.1-20.

### II. Theoretical Approaches

#### **The Cultural Diamond, Cultural Meaning, and Reflection Theory**

- Griswold, "Chapter 2: Cultural Meaning," pp.21-30.

#### **Cultural Marxism**

- Griswold, "Chapter 2: Cultural Meaning," pp.30-35
- Williams, Raymond. 2002 (1980). "Base and Superstructure." Pp.56-62 in *Cultural Sociology*, edited by Lyn Spillman. Malden, MA: Blackwell. [OPTIONAL]
- Willis, Paul. 1990 (1979). "Masculinity and Factory Labor." Pp.183-195 in *Culture and Society: Contemporary Debates*, edited by Jeffrey C. Alexander and Steven Seidman. New York: Cambridge University Press. [OPTIONAL]

W December 20

### **Functionalism**

- Griswold, "Chapter 2: Cultural Meaning," pp.35-39
- Griswold, "Chapter 3: Culture as Social Creation," pp.52-60
- Durkheim, Emile. 2002 (1915). "The Meaning of Religion." Pp.346-348 in *The Meaning of Sociology: A Reader, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition*, edited by Joel M. Charon. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

### **Weber on Culture**

- Griswold, "Chapter 2: Cultural Meaning," pp.39-44
- Weber, Max. 2004 (1905). "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism." Pp.345-350 in *Seeing Ourselves: Classic, Contemporary, and Cross-Cultural Readings in Sociology*, edited by John J. Macionis and Nijole V. Benokraitis. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Th December 21

### **Culture as (Coherent) Systems**

- Geertz, Clifford. 1990 (1972). "The Balinese Cockfight as Play." Pp.113-121 in *Culture and Society: Contemporary Debates*, edited by Jeffrey Alexander and Steven Seidman. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Geertz, Clifford. 2000 (1973). "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture." Pp.63-67 in *Cultural sociology*, edited by Lyn Spillman. Malden, MA: Blackwell. [OPTIONAL]

### **Culture as Practice**

- Griswold, "Chapter 2: Cultural Meaning," pp.44-51
- Swidler, Ann. 2001. "Chapter 1: Finding Culture" and "Chapter 2: Repertoires." Pp.11-40 in *Talk of Love: How Culture Matters*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
- Swidler, Ann. 1986. "Culture in Action: Symbols and Strategies." *American Sociological Review* 51(2): 273-86. [OPTIONAL]

## III. The Production and Reception of Culture

F December 22

### **Production of Culture and Cultural Innovation**

- Griswold, "Chapter 3: Culture as a Social Creation," pp.60-77.
- Griswold, "Chapter 4: The Production, Distribution, and Reception of Culture," pp.78-91.
- Hirsch, Paul M. 1972. "Processing Fads and Fashions: An Organization-Set Analysis of Cultural Industry Systems." *American Journal of Sociology* 77(4): 639-659.
- Becker, Howard S. 2002 (1982). "Art Worlds." Pp.178-188 in *Cultural Sociology*, edited by Lyn Spillman. Malden, MA: Blackwell. [OPTIONAL]
- DiMaggio, Paul. 1977. "Market Structure, the Creative Process, and Popular Culture: Toward an Organizational Reinterpretation of Mass-Culture Theory." *Journal of Popular Culture* 9(1): 97-116. [OPTIONAL]

- Fine, Gary Alan. 1979. "Small Groups and Culture Creation: The Idioculture of Little League Baseball Teams." *American Sociological Review* 44: 733-45. [OPTIONAL]
- Fine, Gary Alan. 1992. "The Culture of Production: Aesthetic Choices and Constraints in Culinary Work." *American Journal of Sociology* 97(5): 1268-94. [OPTIONAL]
- Peterson, Richard A. 1990. "Why 1955? Explaining the Advent of Rock Music." *Popular Music* 9(1): 97-116. [OPTIONAL]
- Peterson, Richard A. and N. Anand. 2004. "The Production of Culture Perspective." *Annual Review of Sociology* 30: 311-34. [OPTIONAL]

M December 25      **Christmas Holidays – No Class**

T December 26      **Christmas Holidays – No Class**

W December 27      **Reception of Culture and Cultural Interpretation**

- Griswold, "Chapter 4: The Production, Distribution, and Reception of Culture," pp.91-106
- Schudson, Michael. 1989. "How Culture Works: Perspectives from Media Studies on the Efficacy of Symbols." *Theory and Society* 18: 153-180.
- Griswold, Wendy. 1987. "The Fabrication of Meaning: Literary Interpretation in the United States, Great Britain, and the West Indies." *American Journal of Sociology* 92(5): 1077-1117. [OPTIONAL]
- Press, Andrea L. 1994. "The Sociology of Cultural Reception: Notes Toward an Emerging Paradigm." Pp.221-245 in *The Sociology of Culture: Emerging Theoretical Perspectives*, edited by Diana Crane. Cambridge, MA: Basil Blackwell Ltd. [OPTIONAL]

Th December 28      **Midterm**

- Midterm exam review
- Midterm exam
- Midterm course evaluation

#### IV. Culture and Social Structure

F December 29      **Class, Distinction, and Cultural Capital**

- Bourdieu, Pierre. 2000 (1974). "The Aesthetic Sense as the Sense of Distinction." Pp.205-211 in *The Consumer Society Reader*, edited by Juliet B. Schor and Douglas B. Holt. New York: The New Press.
- Lamon, Michèle and Annette Lareau. 1988. "Cultural Capital: Allusions, Gaps and Glissandos in Recent Theoretical Developments." *Sociological Theory* 6: 153-168.

- DiMaggio, Paul and John Mohr. 1985. "Cultural Capital, Educational Attainment, and Marital Selection." *American Journal of Sociology* 90(6): 1231-1261.
- Erickson, Bonnie H. 1995. "Culture, Class, and Connections." *American Journal of Sociology* 102(1): 217-251. [OPTIONAL]
- Holt, Douglas B. 1998. "Does Cultural Capital Structure American Consumption?" *Journal of Consumer Research* 25(1): 1-25. [OPTIONAL]
- Alvarez, Louis and Andrew Kolker. 2001. *People Like Us: Social Class in America*. Washington, DC: Center for New American Media. [FILM]

M January 1

**New Year's Day Holiday – No Class**

T January 2

**Class, Culture, and Social Boundaries**

- Bryson, Bethany. 1996. "‘Anything but Heavy Metal’: Symbolic Exclusion and Musical Dislikes." *American Sociological Review* 61: 884-99.
- Peterson, Richard A. and Roger M. Kern. 1996. "Changing Highbrow Taste: From Snob to Omnivore." *American Sociological Review* 61: 900-907.

W January 3

**Race and American Culture**

- DuCille, Ann. 2000. "Toy Theory: Black Barbie and the Deep Play of Difference." Pp. 258-278 in *The Consumer Society Reader*, edited by Juliet B. Schor and Douglas B. Holt.
- Omi, Michael. 1989. "In Living Color: Race and American Culture." Pp.111-122 in *Cultural Politics in Contemporary America*, edited by Ian Angus and Sut Jhally. New York: Routledge.
- Lee, Orville. 2005. "Race After the Cultural Turn." Pp.234-250 in *The Blackwell Companion to the Sociology of Culture*, edited by Mark D. Jacobs and Nancy Weiss Hanrahan. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell. [OPTIONAL]

Th January 4

**Race, Discrimination, and Stereotyping**

- Binder, Amy. 1993. "Constructing Racial Rhetoric: Media Depictions of Harm in Heavy Metal and Rap Music." *American Sociological Review* 58(6): 753-67.
- Feagin, Joe R. 1991. "The Continuing Significance of Race: Antiblack Discrimination in Public Places." *American Sociological Review* 56: 101-116.
- Glassner, Barry. 1999. "Black Men: How to Perpetuate Prejudice Without Really Trying." Pp.107-127 in *The Culture of Fear*. New York: Basic Books.

F January 5

**Gender, Popular Culture, and Sexuality**

- Review and apply the cultural diamond
- Jhally, Sut. 2005. *Dreamworlds 3: Desire, Sex, and Power in Music Video*. Northampton, MA: Media Education Foundation. [FILM]

M January 8

**Gender, Culture, and the Body**

- Bordo, Susan. "Hunger as Ideology." Pp. 99-114 in *The Consumer Society Reader*, edited by Juliet B. Schor and Douglas B. Holt.
- Pope, Harrison G., Jr., Katharine A. Phillips and Roberto Olivardia. 2000. "The Rise of the Adonis Complex: Roots of the Male Body Obsession." Pp.27-61 in *The Adonis Complex: The Secret Crisis of Male Body Obsession*. New York: The Free Press.
- Kilbourne, Jean and Sut Jhally. 2000. *Killing Us Softly 3*. Northampton, MA: Media Education Foundation. [FILM]

T January 9

**Final**

- Journals due
- Final exam review
- Course evaluations
- Final exam



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**Course Calendar**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
December 18  Course Introduction Introduction to Culture	December 19  Perspectives on Culture Cultural Diamond, Cultural Meaning, and Reflection Theory Cultural Marxism	December 20  Functionalism Weber on Culture	December 21  Culture as (Coherent) Systems Culture as Practice	December 22  Production of Culture and Cultural Innovation
December 25  CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS – NO CLASS	December 26  CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS – NO CLASS	December 27  Reception of Culture and Cultural Interpretation	December 28  Midterm Exam Review MIDTERM EXAM Midterm Course Evaluations	December 29  Class, Distinction, and Cultural Capital
January 1  NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLIDAY – NO CLASS	January 2  Class, Culture, and Social Boundaries	January 3  Race and American Culture	January 4  Race, Discrimination, and Stereotyping	January 5  Gender, Popular Culture, and Sexuality
January 8  Gender, Culture, and the Body	January 9  JOURNALS DUE Final Exam Review Course Evaluations FINAL EXAM			