

CAPILANO UNIVERSITY COURSE OUTLINES			
TERM:	Fall 2017	COURSE NO: SOC 210	
INSTRUCTOR:		COURSE NAME: Sociology of Popular Culture	
OFFICE:	LOCAL:	SECTION NO(S):	CREDITS: 3
E-MAIL:	@capilanou.ca		
OFFICE HOURS:			

COURSE FORMAT:

Three hours of class time, plus an additional hour delivered through on-line or other activities for a 15-week semester, which includes two weeks for final exams.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

None.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will explore sociological theories and ideas about popular culture from the nineteenth century to the present day. Students will analyze the social context that surrounds the production and consumption of cultural products such as art, music, film, fashion, and television.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Define "popular culture"
- Compare functionalist, critical/conflict, and interactionist theories of popular culture production and consumption
- Assess the role of cities, legal systems, and technology in the creation of popular culture
- Describe the changing role of the audience in popular culture consumption and production
- Apply Bourdieu's theories to the connection between socioeconomic class and cultural taste, including the student's own individual tastes
- Evaluate the impact of digital technology on popular culture
- Apply Griswold's method of cultural analysis to a specific popular culture example

COURSE WEBSITE:

moodle.capilanou.ca

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Grazian, David. Mix It Up: Popular Culture, Mass Media, and Society. NY: WW Norton, 2010.

Various articles and book chapters available from the SOC 210 Moodle site. (See below for more information).

COURSE CONTENT:

Week	Topic	Readings
1.1	Introduction	Grazian ch. 1
1.2	Introduction 2	Becker, Art as Collective Action
2.1	Introduction 3	Griswold, A Methodological Framework for the Sociology of Culture
2.2	Theoretical Perspectives: Functionalism	Grazian, ch. 2
3.1	Functionalism 2	
3.2	Theoretical Perspectives: Critical/Conflict	Grazian, ch. 3
4.1	Critical/Conflict 2	Marx and Engels, The German Ideology
4.2	Critical/Conflict 3	Horkheimer and Adorno, The Culture Industry
5.1	Theoretical Perspectives: Interactionism	Grazian, ch. 4
5.2	Interactionism 2	
6.1	Creating Popular Culture	Grazian, ch. 5
6.2	Creating Popular Culture 2	Hess, The Rap Career
7.1	MIDTERM EXAM	
7.2	The Business of Media	Grazian, ch. 6
8.1	The Business of Media 2	
8.2	Cultural Consumption and Class	Grazian, ch. 7
9.1	Consumption and Class 2	Bourdieu, Distinction
9.2	Consumption and Class 3	
10.1	Consumption and Class 4	Khan, The New Elitists; Veenstra, Class Position and Musical Tastes
10.2	Audiences and Meaning RESEARCH PAPER DUE	Grazian, ch. 8
11.1	Audiences and Meaning 2	Joly-Corcoran and Ludlow, Thank the Maker
11.2	Culture and Consumption	Grazian, ch. 9

12.1	Culture and Consumption 2	
12.2	Culture and Consumption 3	Hannigan, Fantasy Cities
13.1	Digital Popular Culture	Grazian ch. 10
13.2	Digital Popular Culture 2	
14 and 15	FINAL EXAM will be during this exam period	

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

Each student must write a **research paper** applying Griswold's method of cultural analysis (see reading for week 2.1) to a popular culture example of your choice. This could be a TV show, movie, popular novel, YouTube star, etc. A full description of the assignment will be made available by the second week of classes.

There will be two **exams**, one of them a midterm and the other a final exam, consisting of short-answer and essay-style questions.

There will be a set of **online fourth-hour** activities that will build on the readings and classroom material. Refer to the course website for more information.

The **participation** mark will be based on "minute papers": very short papers (as short as a sentence) written in-class and marked as either "complete" or "incomplete." These papers might ask you to summarize one of the main points of that day's class, or of the readings for the class, or to think of a question that is related to the day's topic that wasn't answered in the lecture or discussion.

EVALUATION PROFILE:

Research paper:	30%
Midterm exam:	25%
Final exam:	30%
Fourth-hour online assignments:	10%
Participation:	<u>5%</u>
	100%

GRADE PROFILE:

A+ = 90 - 100%	B+ = 77 - 79%	C+ = 67 - 69%	D = 50 - 59%
A = 85 - 89	B = 73 - 76	C = 63 - 66	F = 0 - 49
A- = 80 - 84	B- = 70 - 72	C- = 60 - 62	

OPERATIONAL DETAILS:

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Cheating and Plagiarism, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

Attendance: Class attendance is essential to success in the course. Classes will involve lectures, videos, debates and discussions, small-group assignments, handouts, and other material. All of this is “examinable,” so if you miss a class for any reason, please arrange to get notes from a classmate.

Late Assignments: Late papers will be accepted, but with a 5% penalty for each day that the paper is late, including weekends.

Missed Exams: Make-up tests are given at the discretion of the instructor. They are given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crisis. Missing an exam for any other reason will be accommodated only in special circumstances, and only with prior arrangement with the instructor.

English Usage: It is the responsibility of students to proof-read all written work for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors. Marks will be deducted for incorrect grammar and spelling in written assignments.

Incomplete Grades: Given at the discretion of the instructor in the case of medical emergencies or severe personal crises.

Electronic Devices: No personal electronic devices (cell phones, pagers, calculators, electronic dictionaries, “smart” watches, etc.) may be used during an examination without prior approval from the instructor. During an exam, turn off all mobile phones and other devices and remove them from the desk.

Emergency Procedures: Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.