CURE 1001
Introduction to Cultural Studies

2:30pm to 4:15pm, Monday
UCC 201

Lecturer: Prof. PANG Laikwan
Email: lkpang@cuhk.edu.hk
Office Address: 217, Leung Kau Kui Building
Office Tel: 39434153

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This is an introductory course to Cultural Studies designed specifically for students new to the discipline. There are many ways to begin the intellectual journey into Cultural Studies, and in this course we focus on four key words—Identity, Ideology, Capitalism, and Hegemony. These four concepts are treated as windows for students to explore the general concerns of Cultural Studies, particularly related to the dynamics among culture, society, economics, and politics. We study the complex relations between text and context, expression and control, individual and collectivity. We analyze how power and control are operated, and we also explore how autonomy and resistance might be achieved. Students will confront and unlearn some of their previously held values, with the aim to develop their own ways to encounter this world ridden with power operation. Overall, the course aims to help students develop an urgent sense of criticality and creativity, and explore why critical thinking and creative thinking are central concerns of Cultural Studies.
SYLLABUS

Sept 2  Introduction

IDENTITY

Sept 9  Representations and Identity
Sept 16 Identity Politics

Main Readings:  
- bell hooks, “Choosing the Margin: As a Space of Radical Openness,” in Yearning: Race, Gender, and Cultural Politics (South End Press, 1990), 145–153.

Reference:  Barker and Jane, Cultural Studies, Ch. 7

Film:  Black Panther (dir. Ryan Coogler, 2018)

IDEOLOGY

Sept 23  What is Ideology?
Sept 30 Ideological State Apparatus

Oct 7  Chung Yeung Festival – no class

Main Readings:  

Reference:  Barker and Jane, Cultural Studies, Ch. 2


CAPITALISM

Oct 14  Commodity and Exploitation
Oct 21 Space and Time Compression
Oct 28 Lecturer attending overseas seminar – no class

Nov 4  Capitalism and Crises

Main Readings:  
- Karl Marx, Capital vol. 1: Session 1 of Ch 1, “The Two Factors of the Commodity” and Ch 4;

Reference:  Strinati, An Intro to Theories of Popular Culture, Ch. 4;

Film:  The Big Short (dir. Adam McKay, 2015)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 21</td>
<td>Cultural Hegemony</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 18</td>
<td>Guest Lecture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 25</td>
<td>Control and Resistance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Main Readings:**

**Reference:**

**Film:**

---

**Reference: Textbooks for Introduction to Cultural Studies**


**Learning Outcomes**

Students are expected to learn the importance of culture in our world, and particularly in its relation with ideology and subject formation. Students are also expected to acquire the basic reading skills to understand critical theories, so that they can apply them to cultural texts and their own everyday life critically. They are expected to understand some key concepts and values of Cultural Studies, and how it is different and related to other disciplines.

**Tutorials**

In addition to the required group presentations and attendance, students are expected to meet their tutors individually or in a small group to discuss their term papers.

**Assessment**

- 10%: Lecture Attendance and Participation
- 25%: Tutorial Presentation, Attendance, and Participation
- 25%: Term Paper (due Nov 21)
- 40%: Final Exam

**Grade Descriptor**

A: Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.
A-: Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.
B: Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.
C: Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.
D: Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes
F: Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements.

**Academic Honesty**

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at [http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/).