MDIA 11: INTRODUCTION TO POPULAR CULTURE

Foothill College Course Outline of Record

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heading</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tr>
<td>Effective Term:</td>
<td>Summer 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Units:</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hours:</td>
<td>4 lecture, 1 laboratory per week (60 total per quarter)</td>
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<td>Advisory:</td>
<td>Demonstrated proficiency in English by placement via multiple measures OR through an equivalent placement process OR completion of ESLL 125 &amp; ESLL 249; not open to students with credit in F A 1, HUMN 11, HUMN 11H or MDIA 11H.</td>
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Degree & Credit Status: Degree-Applicable Credit Course
Foothill GE: Area I: Humanities
Transferable: CSU/UC
Grade Type: Letter Grade (Request for Pass/No Pass)
Repeatability: Not Repeatable
Cross-Listed: HUMN 11

Student Learning Outcomes

- A successful student will evaluate artifacts of popular culture and its relationship to a commodity culture.
- A successful student will analyze assumptions of race, class, generation, and gender embedded in popular culture.
- Critique aspects of popular culture as a reflection of their social/historical context.

Description

Overview, history and critical analysis of popular culture as a window for understanding American society. Theories and methods of analyzing artifacts of popular culture. Overarching themes: history/social theories of popular culture; popular culture as a product of American multiculturalism; the relationship between a commodity culture and intellect/artistry; philosophical/ethical issues surrounding popular culture.

Course Objectives

The student will be able to:

a. evaluate the influence of popular culture on contemporary society.
b. interpret artifacts of popular culture from an historical and social perspective.
c. synthesize critiques of popular culture.
d. identify and analyze the sources of popular culture.
e. engage in critical thinking concerning assumptions of race, class, and gender embedded in popular culture.

Course Content

a. Introduction and Background
   i. Historical overview of late 20th/21st century American culture
   ii. Defining popular culture: high culture versus popular culture
   iii. Popular culture and artistry
b. Advertising
   i. Advertising and American capitalism, ethical issues
   ii. Advertising: critical analysis (e.g., conscious/subconscious imagery)
   iii. Images of women in advertising, feminist critique
   iv. Modern advertising and social media
c. Television
   i. Television as a reflection of American cultural values/ideals
   ii. Current television phenomena (e.g., reality shows, binge watching, etc.)
   iii. Television and social criticism: The Simpsons, Modern Family, etc.
d. Music
   i. Multiculturalism and American popular music
   ii. Popular music versus classical music; historical perspectives and shifting boundaries
   iii. Rock, rap, and the Doctrine of Ethos; can music influence human behavior?
   iv. Music and visual culture (e.g., music videos)
e. Technology
   i. Technology and evolving communication/language
   ii. Democratization and cyberspace
   iii. Technology and shifting social contracts
f. Sports
   i. Football and semiotics (football as an American metaphor)
   ii. Critical analysis; sports as Dubord’s Spectacle
   iii. Sport as platform for protest and social progress
g. Film
   i. Reflections on the American dream—Hollywood as a purveyor of American culture
   ii. Race and gender stereotypes in contemporary films
   iii. Film analysis—artistry in American films
   iv. Film and its relationship with national history/mythology

Lab Content

a. Students apply theoretical knowledge to popular culture artifacts (films, television, music, advertising, etc.) in a problem-based environment.
b. Discussion forums on theories of popular culture.
c. Weekly reflections on topics within popular culture.

Special Facilities and/or Equipment

1. Classroom computer with internet access.
2. Video/DVD projection equipment.
3. CD player.
4. When taught via Foothill Global Access: on-going access to computer with email software and capabilities; email address; JavaScript-enabled internet browsing software.
Method(s) of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation may include but are not limited to the following:

- Cooperative learning assignments
- Analytical essays
- Objective exams

Method(s) of Instruction

Methods of Instruction may include but are not limited to the following:

- Lecture presentations and classroom discussions on the history and analysis of American popular culture
- Readings offering diverse perspectives on aspects of popular culture
- Class presentations
- Individual and group analyses of artifacts of popular culture

Representative Text(s) and Other Materials


Open source readings (various authors), blogs, podcasts, and videos, provided as links on the course website.

Types and/or Examples of Required Reading, Writing, and Outside of Class Assignments

- Weekly reading assignments ranging from 10-20 pages per week.
- Written analyses of artifacts of popular culture.
- Weekly learning reflections in which students identify the large ideas presented that week.
- Online discussion forums based on course readings and analyses of artifacts of popular culture.

Discipline(s)

Music or Humanities