

COM 323: COMMUNICATION APPROACHES TO POPULAR CULTURE

Instructor:

E-mail:

Office Hours:

Course Description: Welcome to Communication Approaches to Popular Culture. The course covers critical theory (like postcolonial, feminist, and deconstructive criticism) as a means of critiquing popular culture. Students should leave the course with basic knowledge about the ways in which popular culture messages impact them on a daily basis, as well as develop a critical eye for deconstructing these messages.

GENERAL POLICIES

Your Responsibilities: Your responsibilities to this class, and to your education as a whole, include attendance and participation. This syllabus details specific expectations the instructor may have about attendance and participation. You have a responsibility to help create a classroom environment where all may learn. At the most basic level, this means you will respect the other members of the class and the instructor and treat them with the courtesy you hope to receive in return. Specifically, racist, sexist, homophobic or other discriminatory language or behavior will not be tolerated.

Academic Integrity: Academic honesty is expected of all students in all examinations, papers, laboratory work, academic transactions and records. The possible sanctions include, but are not limited to, appropriate grade penalties, course failure (indicated on the transcript as a grade of E), course failure due to academic dishonesty (indicated on the transcript as a grade of XE), loss of registration privileges, disqualification and dismissal. For more information, see <http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity>.

Disability Accommodations: Qualified students with disabilities who will require disability accommodations in this class are encouraged to make their requests to me at the beginning of the semester either during office hours or by appointment. Note: Prior to receiving disability accommodations, verification of eligibility from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) is required. Disability information is confidential. Establishing Eligibility for Disability Accommodations: Students who feel they will need disability accommodations in this class but have not registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) should contact DRC immediately. Their office is located on the first floor of the Matthews Center Building. DRC staff can also be reached at: 480-965-1234 (V), 480-965-9000 (TTY). For additional information, visit: www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/ed/drc. Their hours are 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

SPECIFIC POLICIES

Assignments for CAPC: Students will join a group and deliver a "case study" report about one of the critical theories covered in class. There are two exams in the course, a final paper at the end of the semester, and a participation grade will also be calculated in the final course score.

Grades:

Case Study	100	(in groups)
Exams	200	(100 points each)
Final Paper	100	
Participation	100	(includes activities)
Total	500	

Strategies for Improvement:

I cannot explicitly measure *effort*; the final product is all that can be evaluated. Although effort is typically associated with improved results, you should not confuse the two. I spend vast amounts of time ensuring that grades are fair and consistent, and if anything, err in your favor when assigning grades. Please feel free to speak with me at any time about ways to improve your performance during the course. I strongly suggest that you do not wait until the end of the semester to discuss strategies for improvement.

Questions or Concerns about Graded Assignments:

I spend time carefully evaluating your work and expect that you will take time to read my comments. Therefore, I will not discuss your graded assignments until 24 hours have passed from the time I return the assignment to you. After that time, I will be happy to discuss the assignment with you using the grading criteria. The attitude brought to office hours should be focused on what can be done to improve your performance on the next assignment, rather than disputing the grade itself. I will not make changes to any grades more than 7 days after I returned an assignment, but I will be happy to discuss any questions you have. My goal is to help you improve your performance.

Contacting the Instructor:

Although e-mail is useful for quick, easy-to-answer questions, I request that students do not use it as a substitute for normal office hours. If you need substantive help in the course, I cannot adequately assist you via e-mail. Interaction is the key to making office hours work, and e-mail does not allow for this kind of interaction. Additionally, do not assume that I check my e-mail all day. Always assume a 48-hour response time.

Attendance/Participation:

I will not keep a record of your attendance. However, there are quizzes or activities daily. Many years of teaching have proven to me that there is a strong relationship between class attendance and performance on written assignments. You should also recognize that simply showing up to class does not guarantee or entitle you to a passing grade. I will do my best to involve you in discussions and I strongly encourage you to participate - it will contribute significantly to how much you and your classmates learn in this class.

You are fully responsible for all information covered during class meetings and contained within the readings (including any changes related to the syllabus and/or the course schedule). Please note

that you are responsible for obtaining any information missed due to absences, that are not university approved (i.e. hospitalization, death in the family, university sanctioned event), from one of your classmates, not from me. I assume that any student who approaches me during office hours for clarity has attended the class related to the question at hand.

Deadlines and Due Dates:

I must approve any excuse for missing a paper/quiz/activity (p/q/a) deadline **PRIOR** to the due date of that p/q/a. Missing a due date without receiving prior approval will result in a zero on that p/q/a, and no opportunity will be provided to "make up" the p/q/a. There will be **NO EXCEPTIONS** to this rule. Prior approval requires that you talk to me in person (i.e. face-to-face; sending an e-mail or leaving a telephone message is not sufficient) and that I accept the reason for your request. Please note that, even in the case of prior notification, papers and other assignments may only be made up in cases of legitimate, officially documented excused absences.

*******YOU CANNOT MISS YOUR CASE STUDY DATE!!!!*******

Assigned Readings:

Tyson, Lois. *Critical Theory Today: A User-Friendly Guide*. 3rd edition (New York: Routledge, 2014).

DAILY SYLLABUS FOR COM 323

Date	Subject/Readings
1-12	Introductions & Syllabus and Assignments
1-14	Read chapter 1 & Key Terms

Date	Subject/Readings
1-19	Psychoanalytic Criticism: Read 11-37
1-21	Psychoanalytic Criticism

Date	Subject/Readings
1-26	Assign Groups & Type of Criticism
1-28	Group Work Day (Read the chapter you've been assigned to present for this day!)

Date	Subject/Readings
2-2	Marxist Criticism ppgs. 51-65
2-4	Marxist Criticism (Group 1)

Date	Subject/Readings
2-9	Feminist Criticism ppgs. 79-114
2-11	Feminist Criticism (Group 2)

Date	Subject/Readings
2-16	New Criticism ppgs. 129-143
2-18	New Criticism (Group 3)

Date	Subject/Readings
2-23	Review for Exam 1
2-25	EXAM 1

Date	Subject/Readings
3-1	Deconstructive Criticism ppgs. 235-251
3-3	Deconstructive Criticism (Group 4)

Date	Subject/Readings
3-8	Spring Break
3-10	Spring Break

Date	Subject/Readings
3-15	New Historical & Cultural Criticism ppgs. 267-286
3-17	New Historical & Cultural Criticism (Group 5)

Date	Subject/Readings
3-22	Lesbian, Gay & Queer Criticism ppgs. 303-326
3-24	Lesbian, Gay & Queer Criticism (Group 6)

Date	Subject/Readings
3-29	African American Criticism ppgs. 343-378
3-31	African American Criticism (Group 7)

Date	Subject/Readings
4-5	Postcolonial Criticism ppgs. 398-427
4-7	Postcolonial Criticism (Group 8)

Date	Subject/Readings
4-12	Review for Exam 2
4-14	EXAM 2

Date	Subject/Readings
4-19	Writing Workshop (bring 2 copies of a complete draft)
4-21	Presentations

Date	Subject/Readings
4-26	Presentations
4-28	Presentations

Final Exam:

12 class - Tuesday, May 3rd from 1210-2

130 class - Thursday, May 5th from 1210-2