



## **English 383: Introduction to Cultural Studies**

### **Spring, 2002**

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Instructor: Dennis Allen

Office: 439 Stansbury

Office Hours: 4:00-5:00 T/Th and by appointment

Phone: Office: 293-3107 Ext. 33440 Home: 292-0081

Website: <http://www.as.wvu.edu/~dallen/cs.htm>

E-mail: [dallen@wvu.edu](mailto:dallen@wvu.edu)

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Course Purpose: Cultural Studies analyzes texts (ranging from literature and film to raves and Madonna) as social practices that reflect and reinforce (and sometimes destabilize) a culture's beliefs and values. This class will provide an introduction to the theoretical work in this field and apply this theory to texts of various sorts. Some of the topics we will cover will include: the cultural impact of science and technology, globalization, changing notions of gender and sexuality, and postcolonialism.

Course Requirements: Course grades will be based on a midterm (30%), a final exam (30%), and four two page response papers (40%).

The Response Papers: Should consist of a two page typed analysis of an essay from the course reading assignments. These should not summarize the reading but should engage it intellectually. In other words, a response to a particular essay should do one or more of the following: critique the essay, apply it to a literary or cultural text, or relate it to previous reading in the course. Also, if an essay proves exceptionally difficult, your response paper on that essay could present some focused, specific questions on points that you did not understand.

Attendance: You are allowed three absences. If you miss class a fourth time, you will fail the course.

Text: Simon During, *The Cultural Studies Reader*, 2nd Edition (Routledge, 1999).



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Assignments:

### Basic Principles:

Aug. 23: Introduction--Course Structure

Aug. 25: Simon During, "Introduction," pp. 1-17

Aug. 30: John Fiske, "Culture, Ideology, Interpellation" (handout)

Sept. 1: Raymond Williams, "Advertising: The Magic System," pp. 410-423 **Response 1 Due**

### Media and Representation:

Sept. 6: Adorno and Horkheimer, "The Culture Industry," pp. 31-41  
Sept. 8: Stuart Hall, "Encoding, Decoding," pp. 507-517

Sept. 13: Dick Hebdige, "The Function of Subculture," pp. 441-451 **Response 2 Due**  
Sept. 15: Application Day

### Gender and Sexuality:

Sept. 20: Eve Sedgwick, "Axiomatic," 320-330  
Sept. 22: Sedgwick, pp. 330-339

Sept. 27: Judith Halberstam (handout)  
Sept. 29: Application Day

October 4: **Midterm**

### Audiences and Consumption:

Oct. 6: Stallybrass and White, "Bourgeois Hysteria and the Carnavalesque," pp. 382-388

Oct. 11: Richard Dyer, "Entertainment and Utopia," pp. 371-381  
Oct. 13: Janice Radway, "The Institutional Matrix of Romance," pp. 564-576

### Science and Technology:

Oct. 18: Donna Haraway, "A Cyborg Manifesto," pp. 271-281  
Oct. 20: Haraway, pp. 281-291

Oct. 25: Andrew Ross, "The Challenge of Science," pp. 292-304 **Response 3 Due**  
Oct. 27: Application Day

### Ethnicity and Multiculturalism:

Nov. 1: Eric Lott, "Racial Cross-Dressing and the Construction of American Whiteness," pp. 241-255  
Nov. 3: Day Off

Nov. 8: Cornel West, "The New Cultural Politics of Difference," pp. 256-267  
Nov. 10: bell hooks, "A Revolution of Values," pp. 233-240

### Public Space:

Nov. 15: Michel Foucault, "Space, Power and Knowledge," pp. 134-141  
Nov. 17: Lauren Berlant and Michael Warner, "Sex in Public," pp. 354-367 **Response 4 Due**

**Break**

Nationalism, Postcolonialism, and Globalization:

Nov. 29: Gayatri Spivak, "Scattered Speculations on the Question of Cultural Studies," pp. 169-180

Dec. 1: Spivak, pp. 180-188

Dec. 6: Arjun Appadurai, "Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy," pp. 220-230

Dec. 8: Review Day

Final Exam: Dec. 16th, 8:00-10:00 AM

Last Updated: 8/15/05