

Course Title	Introduction to Cultural Criticism				
Course Code	ENG 239				
Course Type	Compulsory				
Level	Undergraduate				
Year / Semester	2 nd year / 1 st semester				
Teacher's Name	Tziouanis Georgakis				
ECTS	5	Lectures / week	2	Laboratories / week	N/A
Course Purpose and Objectives	<p>The aim of the course is to introduce and familiarize students with the theoretical and methodological concerns of cultural theory and criticism. It also seeks to investigate the disciplinary boundaries of various trends within the contemporary terrain of comparative cultural criticism and to locate possible intellectual disruptions of those trends within their historical development. In particular, the course explores Marx's philosophy as a critique of political, social, and economic constructions of culture and its subsequent adaptation by other seminal thinkers. It additionally contextualizes the intricate relationships between class, race, gender, and agency and examines inevitable complications when the aforementioned concepts are performed by social actors of different sorts, marginal or not.</p>				
Learning Outcomes	<p>Students are expected to understand and challenge the multiple and difficult issues that arise with the engagement of cultural criticism, gain new insights into the related issues and surveyed questions, participate in different debates that take place within the relevant philosophical fields, interpret and analyze works of fiction and cinema, be in a position to distinguish, evaluate, and construct arguments, and, finally, produce critical research essays of the kind that is assigned in upper level courses within the European Studies major.</p>				
Prerequisites	N/A	Required	N/A		
Course Content	<p>A. THEORY, PRACTICE, AND THE CRITIQUE OF CULTURE Week 1: Foundations of Cultural Criticism (Stuart Hall) Weeks 2-3: The Communist Manifesto (Karl Marx) Weeks 4-5: Hegemony and Force (Antonio Gramsci) Weeks 6-7: Mass Culture (Theodor Adorno) Week 8: Film Viewing (<i>Metropolis</i> by Fritz Lang) B. ISSUES OF RACE AND GENDER IN LITERATURE Weeks 9-10: Race and Language (Frantz Fanon) Weeks 11-12: Gender and Sexuality (Judith Butler) Week 13: Cultural Criticism and Literature (<i>Sula</i> by Toni Morrison)</p>				
Teaching Methodology	<p>The focus will be placed on the interdisciplinary nature of the discourses engaged in the course. All philosophical readings assigned to the course are juxtaposed with pieces of cinematic artwork and literature so that students develop critical thinking skills through a combination of distinct but infused mediums. Therefore, students will be taught to navigate distinct but necessarily pertinent mediums, understand complicated lectures in English, disentangle complex literary texts by identifying both explicit and implicit arguments, and appreciate diverse forms and different styles.</p>				
Bibliography	<p>Adorno, Theodor W. 'The Schema of Mass Culture.' <i>The Culture Industry: Selected Essays on Mass Culture</i>. Ed. Bernstein, J. M. London and New York: Routledge, 1991. 61-97. Print. Butler, Judith. 'Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire.' <i>The Cultural Studies Reader</i>. Ed. During, Simon. 2nd ed. London and New York: Routledge, 1999. 340-53. Print Fanon, Frantz. 'The Negro and Language.' Trans. Markmann, Charles Lam. <i>Black Skin, White Masks</i>. London: Pluto Press, 1986. 17-40. Print.</p>				

	<p>Gramsci, Antonio. 'Hegemony, Relations of Force, Historical Bloc.' <i>The Gramsci Reader: Selected Writings 1916-1935</i>. Ed. Forgacs, David. New York: New York University Press, 2000. 189-221. Print.</p> <p>Hall, Stuart. 'Cultural Studies and Its Theoretical Legacies.' <i>The Cultural Studies Reader</i>. Ed. During, Simon. 2nd ed. London and New York: Routledge, 1999. 97-109. Print.</p> <p>Lang, Fritz. <i>Metropolis</i>. 118 minutes. Germany: Universum-Film AG, 1927. Film.</p> <p>Marx, Karl, and Frederick Engels. 'Manifesto of the Communist Party.' Trans. Milligan, Martin. <i>Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844 and the Communist Manifesto</i>. Amherst, New York: Prometheus Books, 1988. 203-43. Print.</p> <p>Morrison, Toni. <i>Sula</i>. New York: Penguin Books, 2004. Print.</p>
Assessment	<p>Midterm examination: 45%</p> <p>Final examination: 50%</p> <p>Attendance and participation: 5%</p>
Language	English