

Fall/Winter 2019-2020

AP/EN 4000 3.0A (F)

Studies in Literary Theory: Cultural Studies

Course Director:

Ila Goody
Office: 312 Bethune College

Delivery Format:

Seminar

Time:

Mondays 11:30am-2:30pm

Description:

This course explores theoretical and practical approaches to reading texts, images, and representations of popular culture/media studies. Topics to be examined will include: parables of the post-human, including ideas and stories of cyborgs/hybrids; monsters, zombies and doubles; simulacra and social media; contemporary Gothic; the society of the spectacle; and the culture of affect. We will consider these topics as they relate to broader issues of social identity, politics and aesthetics in the age of globalization as well as to the Internet/virtual reality and the viral economy. We will also consider contemporary revisions and re-inscriptions of popular culture forms, such as techno-thrillers, fairy tales and Vampire stories, as well as examining anime, graphic novel, and film. Films/anime will also be considered in the visual context of Japanese manga and its influence on Western graphic novel. Literary texts will include: William Gibson's Pattern Recognition, Angela Carter's The Bloody Chamber, Anne Rice's Interview with the Vampire, and Olivia Sudjic's Sympathy (a quest for the double via Instagram). Films/anime and graphic novel will include Akira, The Matrix, and The Walking Dead. There will be short theoretical readings by Roland Barthes, Rosi Braidotti, Jean Baudrillard, Guy Debord, Donna Haraway, as well as theoretical and cultural articles critiquing social media and the data revolution by contemporary writers, such as Shoshana Zuboff, Roger McNamee, and Yuval Noah Harari (available, along with Haraway, in a small course kit).

The objectives of the course will be to enable students to engage with texts in the field of popular culture/media studies, and to acquire the skills both to theorize and to interpret those texts practically.

Category:

A

Historical Requirement:

N/A

Requirements:

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| 1 Bibliographic Assignment (750-1000 words) | 20% |
| 1 Major Essay (2000-2500 words) | 30% |
| 1 Test (in class) | 20% |
| 1 Seminar Presentation (1000 words) | 20% |
| Class Participation | 10% |
| Total: | 100% |

Reading List:

A small course kit of articles will be made available.

Roland Barthes, The Empire of Signs

Jean Baudrillard, Screened Out

Rosi Braidotti, The Posthuman

Angela Carter, The Bloody Chamber

Guy Debord, Comments on the Society of the Spectacle

William Gibson, Pattern Recognition

Robert Kirkman, The Walking Dead, Vol 1: Days Gone Bye

Anne Rice, Interview with the Vampire

Olivia Sudjic, Sympathy

First 3 texts to be read: Haraway, Baudrillard, Gibson

Open To:

Honours Yr 4