

Doing Culture: Narratives of Cultural Production



DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES

Note for students: This short course outline is provided for planning purposes only. Course information is tentative and subject to change; the final course syllabus will be available by the first day of classes.

Course Code

HUMA 1781, 6.0 A

Course Description

Through the investigation of a cross section of texts from diverse cultures, genres, and media formats, this course will provide a solid introduction to the methods and theories used throughout the Humanities core major. The course modules speak to all four streams of the core major: Power, Diaspora, and Race; Arts, Material, and Popular Cultures; Digital, Technological, and Natural Worlds; Texts, Contexts, Interpretations. This core course uses the study of narrative form and the retelling of stories in different creative forms and media environments to develop key skills in writing, reading, critical analysis and theory. The course examines the ways that certain recurrent narratives have been realized in a range of media and texts (oral stories, literature, histories, everyday objects, film, television, music, and digital media). Stories are not just entertainment but instrumental in how meaning is created and communicated within and across human culture and history. Accordingly, stories are analyzed in terms of their settings, characters, action, motivation, storytellers, meaning, historical context, ideological linkages and biases, notably those of gender,

religion, ethnicity, sexuality, and race. We will analyze the social and cultural significance of, and historical context of the archetypal stories that continue to be told, retold and adapted. A key element here is the use of narrative form to examine the changing relationships among culture, society, history, politics and technology via an interdisciplinary approach that draws from the study of literature, history, music, critical theory, philosophy, religion, popular culture and the arts. Students will demonstrate their knowledge via a diversity of means such as podcast episodes and multimodal narratives. Workshops to develop skills to complete all assignment will be provided in-class.

Course Delivery

Delivery Mode: Lecture and tutorial

Course Materials

All course readings will be provided through eClass.

Tentative Grade Breakdown and Deadlines

Assessment	Weight	Mode	Tentative Deadlines
Module Assignments	30%	Take home	1 st - Nov 18 2 nd - Dec 16 3 rd - Feb 24 4 th - Apr 14
Course Engagement	30%	In-class	throughout course
	100%		