

Course Title	: Perspectives in Cultural Studies I
Course Code	: CUS2401
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Recommended Study Year	: 2
Mode of Tuition	: Lecture-Tutorial
Class Contact Hours	: 3 hours per week
Category in Major Prog.	: Required Course
Prerequisite(s)	: None
Co-requisite(s)	: None
Exclusion(s)	: None
Brief Course Description	: This course is linked to, and normally the prerequisite of, <i>Perspective in Cultural Studies II</i> . These two courses together enable students to grasp the multiple intellectual traditions and concerns of Cultural Studies as a field of study that draws on both aesthetic and ethnographic understandings of culture as the expressive arts, on the one hand, and as everyday life on the other.
Aims	: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) To introduce to the students the internationally shared grounding of the discipline in the study of commodity culture, consumerism and everyday practices. (2) To give the students an understanding of the semiotics-based approach to representation as a crucial dimension of culture. (3) To give the students an understanding of culture as everyday practices and the politics involved.

Learning Outcomes : On completion of *Perspectives in Cultural Studies I*, students should be able to:

- (1) Comprehend key arguments of academic writings on commodity culture and everyday life;
- (2) Explain the basic concepts of culture in relation to the operation of the sign and the making of meaning in actual social and communicative contexts
- (3) Apply appropriate tools and methods for textual analysis with reflexive awareness of the politics of representation involved
- (4) Understand critically various paradigms of socio-political relations in culture.
- (5) Analyze different modes of cultural criticisms and evaluate different strategies of critical engagements in the production of culture.

Indicative Content : 1. Traditions of Cultural Critique

- a. Legacies of literary humanism
- b. Neo-Marxist critiques of mass culture
- c. High culture/low culture controversies
- d. Consumer culture and advertisement

2. Culturalism and the early Birmingham School

- a. Thompson, culture and class
- b. Williams and cultural materialism

3. Representation and ideological analysis

- a. From Gramsci to Althusser
- b. Semiotics and structuralism
- c. Stuart Hall's encoding/decoding model

4. The Popular as Resistance

- a. Subculture and the politics of lifestyle
- b. Identity and practices of everyday life
- c. Fiske and cultural populism

Teaching Method : - Lectures;
- Tutorials: students are required to do presentations, to write up reading notes; and to discuss the assigned articles

- Measurement of Learning Outcomes : (*The numbers in brackets indicate corresponding ILOs*)
1. Examination measures the student's effective command of the knowledge, concepts and theories learned in class. They are required to explain the concepts and to conduct informed discussions of broad issues of modern culture (1, 2, 4)
 2. Tutorial requires students to give coherent oral presentation of assigned readings (1, 2, 3, 4)
 3. Written assignments measure the students' ability to summarize and organize the essentials (2, 5)
 4. Class participation indicates how the students apply the concepts critically (1, 2, 5)
 5. Term paper measures students' ability to organize and defend arguments by making use of the concepts (1-5)

Assessment

: Examination	30%
Oral Presentation	10%
Written Assignments	10%
Class Participation	10%
Term Papers	40%

CUS2401 Perspectives in Cultural Studies I

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Course Requirements

Students are expected to complete all the required readings for each week. Each student is required to present the summary of 1-2 articles, actively participate in classroom discussions and critiques, hand in written assignments, term papers and exams before the deadlines. Any work handed in late will be downgraded or rejected.

Tentative Weekly Schedule

(subject to change according to student needs and class flow)

Week 1 Sept 3

Introduction

Week 2 Sept 10 Culture High and Low

Berger, John. 1972. "Chapter 7." *Ways of Seeing*. London: BBC and Penguin, pp. 129-154.
Debord, Guy. 1994. "Chapter 1: Separation Perfected." *The Society of the Spectacle*. New York: Zone, pp. 11-34.

Week 3 Sept 16 Frankfurt School on High and Low

Benjamin, Walter. 1939/2003. "The Work of Art in the Age of Its Technological Reproducibility (Third Version)." *Walter Benjamin: Selected Writings Vol. 4 1938-1940*. Trans. Edmund Jephcott and others. Belknap of Harvard UP, pp. 251-283.

Supplementary reading:

Adorno, Theodor W. 1941. "On Popular Music."

Week 4 Sept 23 Semiotics

Barthes, Roland. 1972. "Myth Today." *Mythologies*. Trans. Annette Lavers. London: Vintage, pp. 109-159.

Saussure, Ferdinand de. 1906-1911/1983. "The Linguistic Sign." *Course in General Linguistics*. Eds. Charles Bally and Albert Sechehaye. Trans. Roy Harris. La Salle, Illinois: Open Court.

Week 5 Sept 30 Birmingham Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies

Hall, Stuart. 1997. *Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices*. London: Sage and Open U, pp. 15-47.

Williams, Raymond. 1977. *Marxism and Literature*. Oxford and New York: Oxford UP, pp. 55-71; 108-135.

Supplementary reading:

Turner, Graeme. 1990. *British Cultural Studies: An Introduction*. New York and London: Routledge, pp. 41-72; 76-80.

Week 6 Oct 7 Imagined Communities and Identity Formations

Hall, Stuart. 1992. *Modernity and Its Futures*. London: Polity and Open U, pp. 291-299.
Du Gay, Paul, Hall, Stuart, Janes, Linda, Mackay, Hugh and Negus, Keith, eds. 1997. *Doing Cultural Studies: The Story of the Sony Walkman*. London: Sage and Open U, pp. 17-19; 21-26; 89-95.

Week 7 Oct 14 Politics of The Everyday

De Certeau, Michel. 1984. "Chapter 3: 'Making Do': Uses and Tactics" and "Chapter 7: Walking in the City." *The Practice of Everyday Life*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
Term paper due. Critique.

Week 8 Oct 21 Politics of The Everyday

During, Simon. 2005. "The Nature of Culture." *Cultural studies: a critical introduction*. Oxon and New York: Routledge, pp. 208-213.

馬國明，〈街頭掠影〉，《路邊政治經濟學新編》，香港：進一步，2009。

Term paper critique cont.

Week 9 Oct 28 (Post-)Colonial

Said, Edward. 1979. "Introduction." *Orientalism*. New York: Vintage, pp. 1-30.

Week 10 Nov 4 (Post-)Colonial

Chow, Rey. 1993. "Introduction: Leading Questions", *Writing Diaspora: Tactics of Intervention in Contemporary Cultural Studies*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana UP, pp. 1-26.

Chow, Rey. 1992. "Between Colonizers: Hong Kong's Post-colonial Self-Writing in the 1990s". *Diaspora 2 .2* (Fall): 151-170.

Week 11 Nov 11 Sexuality

Rubin, Gayle. 1989. "Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality." *Pleasure and Danger: Exploring Female Sexuality*. Pandora, pp. 267-319.

Rubin, Gayle with Judith Butler. 1997. "Sexual Traffic. Interview." *Feminism Meets Queer Theory*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana UP, pp. 68-108.

Week 12 Nov 18 Gender

Butler, Judith. 1990. "Chapter 1: Sex/Gender/Desire," and "Conclusion: From Parody to Politics." *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. New York: Routledge, pp. 1-17; 142-149.

Butler, Judith. 1993. "Critically Queer." *Bodies That Matter*. New York and London: Routledge, pp. 223-242.

Week 13 Nov 25

Exam preparation.

Dec 9

Exam due. No extensions.

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Yau Ching's syllabus for CU S2401 Perspectives in Cultural Studies I

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Remarks:

“Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations.”