COURSE DETAIL

CULTURAL STUDIES I: DOING CULTURAL STUDIES
Country Netherlands
Host Institution Maastricht University – University College Maastricht
Program(s) University College Maastricht
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Anthropology
UCEAP Course Number 100
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title CULTURAL STUDIES I: DOING CULTURAL STUDIES
UCEAP Transcript Title CULTURAL STUDIES I
UCEAP Quarter Units 6.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.00

Course Description
Cultural Studies is a wide-ranging interdisciplinary inquiry into the ways in which contemporary culture, especially popular culture, operates and functions. It explores how cultural processes and artifacts are produced, distributed, and consumed, and traces the diverse ways in which people shape and transform culture particularly in relation to issues of identity, difference, and power. In contrast to more traditional approaches to culture, this course focuses not merely on elevated cultural objects such as great works of art and literature, but also –and primarily– deals with more mundane cultural phenomena. Addressing topics that range from fashion advertisements to Facebook, and from the iPhone to Lady Gaga, Cultural Studies zooms in on seemingly familiar, yet highly complex, practices of everyday life. This course introduces students to the key thinkers, topics, and critical frameworks in Cultural Studies. It starts with some of the foundational texts and formative debates within the field, most notably the work of Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer, Walter Benjamin, and Stuart Hall, associated with the Frankfurt School and Birmingham School respectively. Subsequently, the course takes a closer look at several topical debates and conceptual approaches within contemporary Cultural Studies. Themes addressed include: consumer culture, advertising, and social networks; the power and politics of representation; material culture and identity; cultural performances of gender; and the trans national cultural flows of globalization. By reading the work of major theorists such as Zygmunt Bauman, Henry Giroux, and Joanna Zylinska, students are familiarized with a variety of critical approaches to cultural theory. Lastly, by looking at the interrelated topics of post humanism, art, and techno science, the final tasks of the course explore some of the most stirring debates within Cultural Studies today, setting out new directions for the future development of the field.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
HUM1003

Host Institution Course Title

CULTURAL STUDIES I: DOING CULTURAL STUDIES
Host Institution Course Details
Host Institution Campus University College Maastricht
Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department Humanities
Course Last Reviewed

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