COURSE DETAIL

POPULAR CULTURE AND PROTEST IN RECENT HISTORY AND LITERATURE

Country
Denmark

Host Institution
Aarhus University

Program(s)
Aarhus University

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
History English

UCEAP Course Number
114

UCEAP Course Suffix

UCEAP Official Title
POPULAR CULTURE AND PROTEST IN RECENT HISTORY AND LITERATURE

UCEAP Transcript Title
POP CULTR & PROTEST

UCEAP Quarter Units
8.00

UCEAP Semester Units

5.30

Course Description

This course examines multiple interactions/connections/confrontations between popular culture products and acts of political and social protest/resistance in the historical and contemporary English-speaking world. It demonstrates how the political and cultural worlds collide/intersect as they study the uses, meanings, symbolic language, motives, and activations of popular culture works in the context of collective acts of protest. The course not only looks at the obvious tension between popular culture and protest, when the former is defined solely along the lines of the "mainstream," but the overlooked and fertile infusion of the two, as in the connections between the abolitionist movement and slave narratives, between the Harlem Renaissance, Jazz, Civil Rights and the Black Arts Movement, between working class activism and realist writing, between modernist experimentation and feminism, between carnivalization and the LGBT movement, between the Windrush Generation, Reggae, Black British poetry, etc. It also explores the activation and sometimes adaptation of popular culture within contexts of collective acts of protest for greater rights/influence/power for marginalized groups organized around gender, sexuality, ethnicity/race, class, generation/age, etc. Employing an interdisciplinary approach, this course draws on concepts and theories from history, literary studies, political communication (among potentially other options), applied to the study of the connections between popular culture actors and their works and sites of collective action. The course firsts gives a general introduction to the core concepts and theories of the course, followed by modules organized around various genres of cultural production, including (but not exclusively) music (e.g. slave songs, Jazz, Reggae, Hip Hop), theatre (e.g. musical theatre, Vaudeville, literature (e.g. slave narratives, Harlem Renaissance, performance poetry, post-colonial texts, graphic novels), visual arts (e.g. Black Arts Movement, protest graffiti), physical monuments (e.g. Confederate statues, imperial figures). The course thus examines the ways that popular culture is mobilized to advance the collective causes of marginalized and disadvantaged groups in their historical and contemporary struggle for liberation and equality, and how

"high" as well as "popular" literature play a role in this.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
132221U001

Host Institution Course Title
POPULAR CULTURE AND PROTEST IN RECENT HISTORY AND LITERATURE

Host Institution Course Details
https://kursuskatalog.au.dk/en/course/127780/Popular-Culture-and-Protest-in-Rec...

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty
Arts

Host Institution Degree
Bachelor

Host Institution Department
School of Communication and Culture

Course Last Reviewed
2024-2025

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