



POPULAR CULTURE

Master in English and American Language, Literature and History

Faculty of Liberal Arts

Course information

Master year 1 24 HOURS

Spring Semester 5 ECTS

Seminars (S)

Professor: Estelle Murail (PhD. King's College London and Paris Diderot University, France)

Course description

The aim of this course is to familiarise students with the academic field of popular culture within a cultural studies framework. Drawing on disciplines including History, Sociology, Literature, Visual Studies, Film Studies or Fashion Studies, we will examine a broad range of cultural objects drawn from British popular culture. After exploring the different meanings of the term 'popular culture', this course will address how the term 'British' is 'read', what it means to be or to be seen to be 'British', and how popular culture shapes national identity. To do so, we will approach cultural objects as diverse as Henry VIII, the notions of class & taste, British regions, football, pubs, the English Christmas, the idea of multicultural Britain, the period drama, the BBC, soap operas, the monarchy, Cool Britannia, as well as British fashion, food and music. Students will be expected to read or watch material ahead of each session as well engage with critical theory throughout the semester.

Évaluation / course validation: in-class presentations or term paper with full bibliography.