Popular Culture (Master Year 1 / Spring)

Master in English and American Language, Literature and History / Faculty of Liberal Arts

Introduction

This module stakes out the notion of popular culture in light of its multiple definitions (i. e., as mass culture, “low” culture, as a site of social and political resistance to dominant societal forces…). Whilst introducing key theoretical tools to analyse works of popular culture by (e.g., cultural studies, resistance, authenticity, subculture, collective alliances, value …), the focus is on probing popular practices and texts across media (visual arts, music, radio, TV-series…), and according to an interdisciplinary approach. Much attention will be paid to the interactions between popular culture and its contemporaneous social, political and cultural milieux. A blend of theory and case studies will enable students to probe works of popular culture not only as reflections of the social, cultural, political and economic forces of their time, but also as potent agents of social and cultural change.

Objectives

• Promote students’ critical thinking towards cultural texts across media
• Develop an understanding of the key concepts relating to the production and consumption of popular culture.
• Consider the interplay between popular culture and societal issues
• Make connections between different popular arts forms and so called “high art

Admission

Prerequisite

Prerequisites training

Not applicable.

Program

Methods of Instruction

Small group tutorials with a blend of theory and case studies.
Task-based approach

Duration

1 semester

Teaching languages

- English

Conditions of submission

If you need more information about this course, kindly send an email to: incomingdri@icp.fr

Personal and collaborative tasks

Assessment and Final Grade

In-class presentation: 40%
In-class writing task: 60%

Course Requirements

Tasks and readings assigned as homework from one week to the next.