

Department of Humanities and Cultural Studies
HUM 3804.001 Cultural Studies Theory/Method
Fall 2022
3 Credit Hours MW 12:30-1:45 CPR 355

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Belgrad. (pronouns: he/him/his)

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Office Hours: If you would like to consult with me, please email me at dbelgrad@usf.edu and we will set up a mutually convenient meeting.

Course Description

An introduction to the ideas and skills needed for doing scholarly work in interdisciplinary cultural studies, including an overview of central critical discussions concerning gender studies, postcolonialism, class and power relationships, and technology and media. Students will become familiar with a range of techniques for properly analyzing cultural texts, and will practice these methods on primary sources including literature, film, music, and other cultural performances.

Prerequisite: AMS 2030 or AMS 2270 or FIL 1002 or HUM 2210 or HUM 2230 or HUM 2250 or HUM 2273 or HUM 2522

This course is a prerequisite for the Senior Seminar required for Humanities and Cultural Studies majors.

HUM 3804 is certified as a Global Citizens course and may be used to fulfill partial requirements of the [Global Citizen Award](#) upon successful completion of the course (final grade of B or higher).

Course Objectives

- Provide a limited survey of the history of theoretical and methodological movements that have influenced our contemporary approach to cultural studies
- Introduce students to the vocabulary of cultural studies
- Offer a practical and applied approach to understanding cultural studies
- Provide opportunities to practice applications of specific theories and methods to primary cultural texts

Book (Available for Purchase):

The Theory Toolbox: Critical Concepts for the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, 2nd edition, by Jeffrey Nealon and Susan Searls Giroux

Note: This book is also **available free through the library as an e-book**, at this link:

<http://ebookcentral.proquest.com.ezproxy.lib.usf.edu/lib/usf/detail.action?docID=718691>

All other readings, designated by an asterisk (*) in the Course Schedule below, will be made available in the “Files” folder or through Course Reserves on this course’s Canvas site.

Graded Assignments

In-class Participation: 20% of course grade. The class will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:30 p.m. until 1:45 p.m. in CPR 355, as detailed in the Course Schedule below. This class will be run primarily as a discussion course; consequently, reading ahead of time, and attending and actively participating in class discussions, form an important part of the learning process.

Writing Assignments: 50% of course grade. There are 5 writing assignments for this class. Throughout the semester, you will be asked to apply the methods studied in class to a primary text. The assignments vary in length from 3 pages to 5 pages (10% each).

Midterm and Final Exams: each 15% of course grade. These tests will be online. Both exams will include short answer and essay type questions. The final exam is cumulative.

Grading Scale (%)	
94-100	A
90 – 93	A-
87 – 89	B+
84 – 86	B
80 – 83	B-
77 – 79	C+
74 – 76	C
70 – 73	C-
67 – 69	D+
64 – 66	D
60 – 63	D-
0 – 59	F

Course Policies

Incomplete grades are only granted when, due to circumstances beyond the control of the student, a small portion of the required work remains undone and the student is otherwise passing the course.

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with disabilities, provided a current Memorandum of Accommodations, from the Office of Student Accessibility Services, is received by the instructor. For additional information about academic accommodations and resources, you can visit the website at <https://www.usf.edu/student-affairs/student-accessibility/>.

Reasonable accommodations will be made in the case of religious holidays. Students who anticipate the necessity of being absent from class due to the observation of a major religious observance must provide notice of the date(s) to the instructor in advance via email.

Academic Integrity: It is fundamental to the University of South Florida's mission to support an environment where divergent ideas, theories, and philosophies can be openly exchanged and critically evaluated. Consistent with these principles, this course may involve discussion of ideas that you find uncomfortable, disagreeable, or even offensive. In the instructional setting, ideas are intended to be presented in an objective manner and not as an endorsement of what I personally believe or what you should personally believe. "Objective" means that the ideas presented are supported by credible research and subject to review and debate. You may decide that certain ideas are worthy of your personal belief. In this course, however, you will be asked to engage objectively with complex ideas and to demonstrate an understanding of the ideas. Understanding an idea does not mean that you are required to believe it or agree with it.

In all assignments, students are expected to explore their own personal ideas as generated by this course and supported by appropriate citations to outside sources. Paper assignments will be turned in through Turnitin. This program checks all submitted papers against paper databases and the internet for plagiarism. Any signs of plagiarism (be it plagiarizing another student's work or any other source) may result in a FF grade for the course. The [USF Policy on Academic Integrity](#) specifies that students may not use websites that enable cheating, such as by uploading or downloading material for this purpose. This does apply specifically to CourseHero.com – any use of this website (including uploading materials) constitutes a violation of the academic integrity policy.

Students may record class lectures, which are considered instructor-delivered academic content. But no recording of other students, their class participation, or discussion is allowed. Therefore students must monitor their recording so that it does not include participation by other students. Students may not publish (post or share) the recordings except as provided by statute. It is not permissible to sell or barter either printed or recorded materials from this course.

The last day to drop this course with a "W" is October 29th.

Course Schedule (complete each reading or assignment by the date listed)

M 8/22 Introduction

W 8/24 Structures of Meaning

M 8/29 Culture and “Myth”

Reading: * Roland Barthes, “The World of Wrestling” from *Mythologies*

W 8/31 Analyzing Visual Texts

Reading: * *Writing Analytically*, pp. 73-82

M 9/5 **Labor Day: No Class**

W 9/7 “Post-structuralism”: The Role of History

Writing Assignment 1: semiotics of an advertisement (3 pages)

M 9/12 Cultural Morphology

Reading: * Warren Susman, “‘Personality’ and the Making of Twentieth-century Culture”

W 9/14 Drawing on Discourses

Reading: *Theory Toolbox*, chapter 2

M 9/19 Discourse and Power

W 9/21 Ideology

Writing Assignment 2: anatomy of a discourse (3 pages)

M 9/26 Ideology and Gender

Reading: *Theory Toolbox*, Chapter 6

* *Writing Analytically*, pp. 804-826

W 9/28 Colonialism and Race

Reading: * *Writing Analytically*, pp. 605-614

M 10/3 Posthumanism

W 10/5 Midterm Review

M 10/10 **Midterm Exam**

W 10/12 Subjectivity and Agency

Reading: *Theory Toolbox*, chapter 4

M 10/17 Auto-ethnography

Reading: * Sara Dykins Callahan, “Academic Outings”

W 10/19 The Possibility of Counterhegemony

Reading: * J. Williamson, *Decoding Advertisements*, pp. 40-64.
Theory Toolbox, chapter 13

M 10/24 Queering

Reading: *Theory Toolbox*, pp. 174-189
* *Writing Analytically*, pp. 827-843

W 10/26 Heteroglossia

M 10/31 Post-colonialism

Reading : *The Theory Toolbox*, 154-160

W 11/2 Shifting Discourses

M 11/7 Affect

Writing Assignment 3: analysis of heteroglossia in a text (5 pages)

W 11/9 Phenomenology, Architecture and Material Culture

Reading: *Theory Toolbox*, Chapter 8
* Felicia Campbell, “The Spell of the Sensuous”

M 11/14 Affect and Music

W 11/16 Choreography

Reading: * Belgrad and Zhu, “Dancing with Knives”
https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1008&context=hcs_facpub

M 11/21 Phenomenology of Film

Writing Assignment 4: analysis of a song: music and lyrics (3 pages)

W 11/23 Cinesthetic Structures

Reading: * Stefan Sharff, “Separation”

M 11/28 Music Video

W 11/30 Final Exam Review

Writing Assignment 5: analysis of a music video: choreography and cinematography (5 pages)

Final Exam: Dec. 7, 10:00-noon (as per final exam matrix)