

Course Objectives/Course Outline
Spokane Community College

Course Title: Introduction to Cultural Studies
Prefix and Course Number: HUM 107

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, a student should be able to:

Course Outline:

- I. Course Orientation
 - A. Introduction to course; general overview of curriculum
 - B. Overview of course requirements, including texts and assignments.
- II. What is Cultural Studies?
 - A. Examination of cultural studies as a “discipline”
 - B. History of cultural studies both within and outside the academy
 - C. Discussion of various disciplines from which cultural studies draws, including English, philosophy, history and women’s studies
 - D. “Culture” versus “popular culture”: the dichotomy between high and low art
 - E. Popular culture as the primary area of analysis in cultural studies
- III. Understanding Key Terms in Cultural Studies
 - A. Overview of common vocabulary in cultural studies texts
 - B. Culture-what is it? Definitions from various disciplinary perspectives
 - C. Hegemony
 - D. Ideology
 - E. Identity categories, such as those based on race (e.g. black, white, Latino, etc.) and on sexuality and gender (heterosexual, gay, lesbian, transgendered)
- IV. Learning to “Read” Cultural Texts
 - A. What it means to read from a cultural studies perspective
 - B. Cultural studies views all cultural objects as texts open to interpretation; the practice of semiotics
 - C. Cultural studies asks us to “read” texts with a critical eye to determine their meaning-that is, the values, beliefs and attitudes the texts convey
 - D. Cultural studies asserts that our own individual ideas about key social concepts such as family, race, and identity are influenced by cultural texts.
- V. The Value of Cultural Studies in the Twenty-First Century
 - A. The world of images, or visual rhetoric
 - B. Examination of how images have become a primary form of communication in US culture.
 - C. Knowing how to read images critically is essential to becoming a well-educated citizen of the world.
- VI. Practicing Cultural Studies
 - A. Introduction to influential theories in cultural studies

- B. Marxist theory
 - C. Psychoanalytic Theory
 - D. Feminist theory
 - E. Postmodern Theory
 - F. Critical race theory
 - G. Queer theory
- VII. Applications of various theoretical perspectives
- A. Films
 - B. Television
 - C. Music
 - D. Fashion
 - E. Sports
 - F. Internet.
- VIII. The Future of Cultural Studies
- A. The influence of globalization on cultural studies as a discipline
 - B. Cultural studies and the “Information Age”; the influence of the internet, electronic media and our increasingly wired society on the practice of culture studies