

**Washington State University**  
**MAJOR CURRICULAR CHANGE FORM - - NEW/RESTORE COURSE**

- ☐ Please attach rationale for your request, a complete syllabus, and explain how this impacts other units in Pullman and other campuses (if applicable).
- ☐ Obtain all required signatures with dates.
- ☐ Provide original stapled packet of signed form/rationale statement/syllabus PLUS 10 stapled copies of complete packet to the Registrar's Office, campus mail code 1035.
- ☐ Submit one electronic copy of complete packet to [wsu.curriculum@wsu.edu](mailto:wsu.curriculum@wsu.edu).

Requested Future Effective Date: Fall 2016 (term/year) Course Typically Offered: Every 3 semesters

**DEADLINES:** For fall term effective date: **October 1<sup>st</sup>**; for spring or summer term effective date: **February 1<sup>st</sup>**. See instructions.

**NOTE:** Items received after deadlines may be put to the back of the line or forwarded to the following year. Please submit on time.

☒ **New Course**

☐ **Temporary Course**

☐ **Restore Course**

AMER ST 528 Cultural Studies

course subject/crosslist

course no.

title

3.0 ( 3.0 - ) Graduate standing

Credit hrs

lecture hrs

lab or studio

prerequisite

per week

hrs per week

Description for catalog: Introduces students to the basic theory and core methods of the field of  
cultural studies through a cross-discipline approach

**Additional Attributes: Check all that apply.**

☐ Crosslisting (between WSU departments)\*

☐ Conjoint listing (400/500): \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Variable credit: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Repeat credit (cum. max. hrs): \_\_\_\_\_

Special Grading: ☐ S, F; ☐ A, S, F (PEACT only); ☐ S, M, F (VET MED only); ☐ H, S, F (PHARMACY, PHARDSCI only)

☐ Cooperative with UI

☐ Other (please list request): \_\_\_\_\_

**The following items require prior submission to other committees/depts. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS.)**

☐ Request to meet Writing in the Major [M] requirement (Must have All-University Writing Committee Approval.)

☐ Request to meet UCORE in \_\_\_\_\_ (Must have UCORE Committee Approval > > See instructions.)

☐ Special Course Fee \_\_\_\_\_ (Must submit request to University Receivables.)

Contact: Lisa Guerrero Phone number: 335-4182 Campus mail code: 4010

Email: laguerre@wsu.edu Instructor, if different: Luz-Maria Gordillo

DLC

Chair/date

8-21-15

Dean/date

Paula Day Wells 9/3/15

All-University Writing Com / date

Chair (if crosslisted/interdisciplinary)\*

Dean (if crosslisted/interdisciplinary)\*

UCORE Committee Approval Date

Catalog Subcommittee Approval Date

GSC or AAC Approval Date

Faculty Senate Approval Date

**\*If the proposed change impacts or involves collaboration with other units, use the additional signature lines provided for each impacted unit and college.**

## **Rationale**

In broader terms, the graduate program in American Studies is seeking to expand our course offerings for graduate students. We have realized that our current curriculum, while serving many fundamental needs of the students in our program, would benefit from the addition of several new courses. Collectively, these new courses: Writing and Research in American Studies, Cultural Studies, The Body, and The Neoliberal University will provide two important things to the program generally, and the students specifically.

1. They will invigorate the curriculum which, with the exception of the revisions made to the Core courses several years ago, has not been grown in many years. The relatively small number of permanent American Studies courses to choose from results in our reliance on “Topics” courses to inconsistently cover important ideas that are central to the field. Making some of these topics permanent will allow more students to gain these useful experiences, have more exposure to a diversity of American Studies graduate faculty within the classroom, and be able to fill out their programs of study with more department-specific courses.
2. They reflect important scholarly and professional trends in the field of American Studies which will put our students in a stronger position on the job market and will fortify our position amongst peer graduate programs in the field.

Specifically, Cultural Studies offers a critical immersion in one of the main fields that informs many of the crucial shifts and developments within contemporary American Studies. The course will introduce students to the foundations of and contemporary trends within the field of Cultural Studies. Similar to American Studies, cultural studies is an interdisciplinary field of study that employs varied methods, approaches, and scholarly perspectives (including: political economy, literary theory, media studies, and cultural anthropology, among others) as a means of critically examining the meaning and practices of everyday life. In particular, the field is concerned with considering cultural practices and their relationships to power. By way of introduction, this course will provide students with a deeper understanding of both intellectual elements of American Studies, as well as the goals, importance, and impacts of interdisciplinarity. Additionally, this graduate course will prepare students for further analysis in cultural studies, and will also connect them to their prospective graduate projects and provide guidance for the rest of their academic interests.

**Impact:** As with all of the courses offered in the American Studies graduate curriculum, the teaching is covered by the faculty of the Critical Culture, Gender, and Race Studies department as part of the regular teaching load. There is no impact to other units in Pullman or other WSU campuses.

**Cultural Studies: Theory and Methods**  
**AMER ST 528**

Dr. Luz-Maria Gordillo  
Office: MMC 202 U  
E-mail: [gordillo@vancouver.wsu.edu](mailto:gordillo@vancouver.wsu.edu)

This course will focus on introducing students to the basic theory and core methods of cultural studies through a cross-discipline approach including: ethnographic analysis, cultural aesthetics, social history, cinema studies, art history, and media studies.

The first part of the course will provide training in the study of textual practices, literary theories, and discursive practices from a gendered historical approach. We will review some contemporary critical approaches and identify the rhetorical elements in a variety of textual practices (including film and TV), and evaluate the reception of texts and their ideological implications.

The second section of the course will focus on the relationship between the cultural, the social, and the political and the relationship between gendered interpretations and cultural aesthetics. The readings will analyze the formation of fields of knowledge, disciplines, and genres. Among others, we will analyze how Feminist Cultural Studies provided a nuanced approach to the study of culture, its theory and its praxis. The course will incorporate theories and methodologies that critically analyze intersections of class, race, gender and sexuality within a cultural studies framework.

**Washington State University Learning Outcomes:**

- A. Locate and evaluate information (primary and secondary sources, databases, etc.) from multiple and diverse sources.
- B. Familiarize students with theories, concepts, and methodologies in cultural studies
- C. Apply media-specific forms and methods of cultural analysis
- D. Familiarize students with a variety of discourses and different conceptions of 'culture'
- E. Develop a mastery of standard scholarly writing and citation style

**Texts:**

1. Strinati, Dominic, *An Introduction to Theories on Popular Culture*
2. Yvonne Tasker, *Working Girls: Gender and Sexuality in Popular Cinema*

3. Eds. David Morley and Kuan-Hsing Chen, *Stuart Hall, Critical dialogues in cultural studies*
4. Amy Flowers, *The Fantasy Factory: An Insider's View of the Phone Sex Industry*
5. Chris Barker, *Cultural Studies: Theory and Practice*
6. Barbara Klinger, *Beyond the Multiplex: Cinema, New Technologies, and the Home*

**Extra readings posted on Blackboard.**

**Requirements:**

ALL WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE REVISED BEFORE TURNED IN. YOUR ESSAY SHOULD NOT HAVE TYPOS, GRAMMATICAL ERRORS NOR SPELLING MISTAKES; AND MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A CLEAR STRUCTURE:

- A. Introduction to the topic
- B. Critique of Literature and Theoretical Framework (at least three authors from the course's required readings and at least three more authors. You may use the recommended readings).
- C. Methodology
- D. Main Arguments and Critical Analysis
- E. Questions for Further Discussion
- F. Concluding Remarks

Hint about academic language: If you are unable to read out loud and understand your work because of the academic jargon you're using, chances are I will experience the same and mark your essay down. If you do not understand formulaic academic definitions then abstain from using them in your final essay or make sure that they are being used appropriately. I strongly suggest you turn in a draft prior to the deadline.

**Requirements**

I. Attendance and participation. Every week students (who are not presenters or discussants) will bring to class a quote that is significant from the readings and an open-ended question for discussion. No 'reading comprehension' questions please. 10%

II. Presentation 20%

Students will select a week's topic for discussion and will provide a three-page written examination of the readings: a) theoretical approaches b) main arguments c) conclusion and suggested questions for further discussion. Student should mail the discussant the presentation's main points and arguments by Sunday at 8:00AM.

III. Discussion 15%

Students will select a week's topic to address peer's presentation in writing. Your critique should include: A) an overall review of peer's presentation, b) clarity, c) missed points,

and d) at least 2 questions for further discussion. Student will submit a two-page written analysis of their discussion.

IV. Final Paper 30% (15-20 pages). I will accept Drafts of projects up to a week prior to the deadline.

V. Power Point Presentation 25%

Grade Breakdown:

By Grade Point:

A = 4.0

A- = 3.8

B+ = 3.5

B = 3.0

B- = 2.8

C+ = 2.5

C = 2.0

C- = 1.8

D = 1.0

By 100 Point Grading Scale:

94-100 = A

90-93 = A-

87-89 = B+

83-86 = B

80-82 = B-

77-79 = C+

73-76 = C

70-72 = C-

60-69 = D

0-59 = F

**Attendance**

The instructor assumes that an absence is due to an illness or family emergency, and the STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MISSED INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS. Let me know if you will be absent. If you are absent the day you present or the day when you discuss your peer's presentation you will lose the points. Since critical announcements and instructions are usually delivered at the beginning of class, **please be in the classroom on time**. No phones please.

**Academic Integrity** is the cornerstone of the university and will be strongly enforced in this course. Any student caught cheating on any assignment will be given an "F" for the course and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. **Plagiarism** is considered cheating. It is when you present someone else's words or ideas as your own, in writing or in speaking; present ideas without citing the source; paraphrase without crediting the source; use direct quotes with no quotation marks; use direct quotes without citation of the source; submit material written by someone else as your own (this includes purchasing a paper); submit a paper or assignment for which you have received so much help that it is no longer your own work. Consult with the instructor if you do not have a clear understanding of plagiarism.

University instructors have the authority to intervene in all situations where students are suspected of academic dishonesty. In such instances, responsible instructors retain the authority to assign grades to students considering, from an academic standpoint, the nature of the student action. More information regarding responding to academic integrity violations can be found at: <http://conduct.wsu.edu>.



## **Additional WSU Policies**

**Disability Accommodation:** Students with Disabilities: Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please either visit or call the Access Center (Washington Building 217; 509-335-3417) to schedule an appointment with an Access Advisor. All accommodations **MUST** be approved through the Access Center. Please notify me during the first week of class of any approved accommodations needed for the course.

**Emergency Notification System:** Washington State University is committed to maintaining a safe environment for its faculty, staff, and students. Safety is the responsibility of every member of the campus community and individuals should know the appropriate actions to take when an emergency arises. In support of our commitment to the safety of the campus community the University has developed a Campus Safety Plan, <http://safetyplan.wsu.edu>. It is highly recommended that you visit this web site as well as the University emergency management web site at <http://oem.wsu.edu/> to become familiar with the information provided.

**Important Dates and Deadlines:** Students are encouraged to refer to the academic calendar often to be aware of critical deadlines throughout the semester. Questions regarding the academic calendar can be directed to the Office of Student Affairs in VSS.

### **Important Dates and Deadlines:**

[www.registrar.wsu.edu/Registrar/Apps/AcadCal.ASPX](http://www.registrar.wsu.edu/Registrar/Apps/AcadCal.ASPX)

I reserve the right to make adjustments to this. Students are responsible to make note of any changes to this syllabus.

## **Schedule**

### **Week 1**

Introductions, syllabus and explanations of the readings, discussion about the course's objectives, and any questions student's may have. Selecting discussion topics and dates as well as respondents.

#### **Videos:**

1. Halle Berry's Oscar Speech

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=llgL7mGYVTI>

2. Interview with Roseanne Barr

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLTsdC0lasc>

### **Week 2**

Introduction to Cultural Studies  
(Readings are posted on Angel).

Lisa Coulthard, "Killing Bill: Rethinking Feminism and Film Violence." Walter Benjamin, "Theses on the Philosophy of History," and "Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction." Kerwin Klein, "On the Emergence of Memory in Historical Discourse." Judith Butler, "Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire," in *Cultural Theory. An Anthology*. George Lipsitz, "Listening to Learn and Learning to Listen: Popular Culture, Cultural Theory, and American Studies," in *Locating American Studies*. Michele Foucault, "Incitement of Discourse," in *The Discourse Reader*.

### **Week 3 Theories**

Strinati, Domini, *An Introduction to Theories on Popular Culture*; Spivak Gayatri Chakravorty, "Scattered Speculations on the Question of Cultural Studies," *The Cultural Studies Reader*; Stuart Hall "Cultural Studies and its Theoretical Legacies," in *Stuart Hall* Ed. David Morley and Juan Hsing Chen.

### **Week 4 Ethics and Praxis**

Amy Flowers, *The Fantasy Factory: An Insider's View of the Phone Sex Industry*

### **Week 5 Marxism and Feminism**

Finish - Strinati, Domini, *An Introduction to Theories on Popular Culture*  
Introduction to *Cultural Studies: Theory and Practice*

### **Week 6 The Sociology of Culture**

Chris Barker, *Cultural Studies: Theory and Practice*

### **Week 7 Feminist Cultural Studies**

Yvonne Tasker, *Working Girls: Gender and Sexuality in Popular Cinema*; Amy Kaplan, "Commentary," in *Locating American Studies*.

### **Week 8 Visual Interpretations and Symbolism**

Begin - Stuart Hall, *Critical dialogues in cultural studies*

### **Week 9 Barthes and Semiology**

Complete Stuart Hall, *Critical dialogues in cultural studies*

### **Week 10 Technologies of Seeing**

Begin - Barbara Klinger, *Beyond the Multiplex: Cinema, New Technologies, and the Home*; Recommended reading: Marita Sturken and Lisa Cartwright, *Practices of Looking: An Introduction to Visual Culture*.

### **Week 11 Who is Watching?**

Tuesday

Continue - Barbara Klinger, *Beyond the Multiplex: Cinema, New Technologies, and the Home*

### **Week 12 Planning a Power Point – Visual Messages**

Tuesday

Discussions on Power point presentations – Outlines due; Fredric Jameson, "Postmodernism, or The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism," in *New Left Review* 146 (1984): 53-92.

Readings on Angel

### **Week 13 The Politics of 'Seeing'**

Tuesday

Complete - Barbara Klinger, *Beyond the Multiplex: Cinema, New Technologies, and the Home*

### **Week 14 Research and Databases**

Tuesday

Lecture from Librarian on Databases – Writing Center

Social Media and its Advantages? Where are we now? Selfies and representations of the self; Matt Hills, "Fan Cultures between 'Fantasy and 'Reality,'" in *Cultural Studies: An Anthology*. Ed. Michael Ryan.

### **Week 15**

#### **Thanksgiving Break**

### **Week 16**

Power Point Presentations

#### **Power Point Presentation**

Develop a 10-15 minute power point presentation discussing your research findings and main arguments of research paper. Timing is of the essence since you will be given a 3 and 1-minute warnings to end on time.

Avoid "talkie" slides, which are slides with a lot of writing on them (do not have a presenter read literally from the slide during the presentation). You may use tables that are easy to read or diagrams that are simple. Power points are tools to help you emphasize your arguments not make the arguments for you. I want to see **more images than writing** on the presentation slides. Make sure that you cite all your sources. You may choose to do this either at the bottom of each slide (write the web page where the image came from or any other source where you got it from). Remember that images work like texts and you must provide the sources where they came from. You may also have all your sources bibliography-style at the end of the presentation.

These presentations need to be professionally done and delivered. I will be taking attendance during the days of the presentations and will mark down those students who are absent during presentation days (these dates are marked on your syllabus). You need to be respectful of you classmates' time and commitment to this project by being present whether you are presenting or not. If you have further questions contact Dr. Gordillo at [gordillo@vancouver.wsu.edu](mailto:gordillo@vancouver.wsu.edu)

The day of your presentation you need to: 1) upload a copy of your power point. 2) Your final research paper 3) and send me a folder with all of the materials you used for the research paper and the power point presentation (these can be notes on paper bags or magazine clips, or copies and titles of articles used and highlighted, anything related to your presentation should be included in the folder like copies of articles, quotes, etc.).

**Make sure that the materials have your name and the title of the presentation.**