



## **JUS 382 (47934 & 47935): Justice and Pop Culture**

Summer Session B

June 29, 2022 - August 9, 2022

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Office Hours: By appointment

Zoom link: <https://asu.zoom.us/j/6616809170>

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Popular culture is a place where questions of justice, identity, social transformation, and dystopia are played out. From the Star Wars franchise to the Atlanta rap scene, pop culture is a dynamic platform for contemplating and struggling over real life issues. In this class, we will use pop culture to understand how people work through inequality, race, gender, sexuality, economic class, the changing environment, drugs, policing, social media, the internet, technology, the future, and more. We will treat cultural products as texts to not only understand what is popular, but how the medium is being used to struggle over meaning, politics, and power. To do this we will focus on visual culture (television) and popular music. Our timeline will stretch from 1984 to 2019. In this class, you will learn how to critically read cultural texts and respond to them with sophistication and style. You will also learn to present your ideas to a broad audience. And you will learn to work collaboratively with peers. In addition to reading cultural texts, we will read the work of Stuart Hall. Stuart Hall was the most important cultural theorist for nearly half a century. His work on culture, politics, identity, representation and popular media has been foundational to the creation of British and American cultural studies. We will use Hall's work to learn the history, theory, and methods of cultural studies. Lastly, we will use the New York Times, The New Yorker, and The Atlantic to provide context and criticism to the cultural products we engage.

Questions we will consider in this course:

- What does "popular" mean?
- What makes something "popular"?
- Why should we study popular culture?
- What lessons about our social world does a study of popular culture provide?
- How are power and inequality reproduced through popular culture?

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course explores the relationship between popular media and social change as it explores who we are and how we see the world. This course explores these ideas through academic readings, documentary films, and class discussions. Those who participate in this course will develop the ability to:

- Identify and discuss the significance of cultural production through the mass media and the critical theoretical perspectives associated with popular culture.
- Discuss contemporary ideology surrounding justice in the mass media.
- Synthesize and apply various forms of popular culture within a broader structural and intersectional social context in relation to grassroots social movements.

## REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

- No textbook required. Articles will be available in Canvas.
- Students will need one of the following subscriptions based on the media they select for their final assignment. HBO Now (The Wire), Netflix (Black Mirror & Orange is the New Black), or Music streaming service (Spotify, YouTube, or Apple Music).
- New York Times (link will be in Canvas)
- The New Yorker (link will be in Canvas)
- Atlantic Monthly (link will be in Canvas)

## ASSIGNMENT

Discussion Board (3)	30 points
Participation (peer review)	20 points
Final Project	50 points

You will find more detailed information about your assignments in Canvas.

### Grading breakdown

A+	98-100%	B-	80-83%
A	94-97%	C+	78-79%
A-	90-93%	C	70-77%
B+	88-89%	D	60-69%
B	84-87%	E	Less Than 60%

## POLICIES

### Statement of Inclusivity

I expect our class to be a supportive environment. A fundamental part of our work is committing ourselves to foster an inclusive, anti-oppressive environment where each

person takes responsibility for her/his/their/hir language, actions, and interactions. In this course, an anti-oppressive environment means that we work against language, actions, interactions, and ideologies that hurt people. Thus, it is important that we listen to each other about how our words and actions are affecting one another and that we talk about a class moment in which something may feel hurtful.

Therefore, hate speech of any kind will not be permitted. This includes the use of racial, sexual, gender, or abled slurs and personal attacks on others' ideas. We will negotiate other guidelines about classroom discussions throughout the course.

### **Communicating with instructor**

I encourage you to use Canvas to send messages to me. It will be the best way to communicate - and it will be the way I will communicate with the class.

ASU email is an official means of communication among students, faculty, and staff. All instructor correspondence will be sent to your ASU email account. Students are expected to read and act upon email in a timely fashion, within 48 hours where possible. I will hold myself to the same expectations. Students bear the responsibility of missed messages and should check their ASU-assigned email regularly. Should you choose to set up email forwarding to a personal or other email accounts, any links to course materials must be accessed through your official ASU email account to ensure authorization. You can confirm your ASU email and forwarding address by going to MyASU, clicking on the Profile tab, and selecting ASU Email Forwarding.

### **Technology Backup**

It is the student's responsibility to have a backup procedure for course assignments.

### **Academic Integrity/Plagiarism**

Students are expected to act with honesty and adhere to the university's Student Academic Integrity Policy. Failure to do so may result in sanctions, such as grade penalties, suspension, or expulsion from the university. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, such actions as cheating; plagiarizing; fabricating or falsifying information, or assisting with such activities. For more information, see <https://provost.asu.edu/academic-integrity>.

### **Harassment**

ASU policy prohibits harassment on the basis of race, sex, gender identity, age, religion, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, Vietnam-era veteran status, and other protected veteran status. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including termination of employees or expulsion of students.

If you feel that another student is harassing you based on any of the factors above, contact the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities:

- Downtown Phoenix: Post Office, Room 243, 602-496-0670;
- Polytechnic: Administration Building, Room 102, 480-727-5269;
- Tempe Students: Student Services Building, Room 263, 480-965-6547; or

- West: University Center Building, Room 301, 602-543-8152; or
- Online Students: Student Services Building, Room 263, 480-965-6547

If you feel that an ASU employee is harassing you based on any of the factors above, contact the Office of Equity and Inclusion at 480-965-5057. For further information on ASU's policy on discrimination, harassment, and retaliation, visit <http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd401.html>.

### **Title IX**

Title IX is a federal law that provides that no person be excluded on the basis of sex from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. Both Title IX and university policy make clear that sexual violence and harassment based on sex is prohibited. An individual who believes they have been subjected to sexual violence or harassed on the basis of sex can seek support, including counseling and academic support, from the university. If you or someone you know has been harassed on the basis of sex or sexually assaulted, you can find information and resources at <https://sexualviolenceprevention.asu.edu/>.

As a mandated reporter, I am obligated to report any information I become aware of regarding alleged acts of sexual discrimination, including sexual violence and dating violence. ASU Counseling Services, <https://eoss.asu.edu/counseling> is available if you wish to discuss any concerns confidentially and privately. ASU Online students may access 360 Life Services, <https://goto.asuonline.asu.edu/success/online-resources.html>.

### **Disability Accommodations for Students**

Arizona State University is committed to student success and ensures an inclusive learning environment for all students. Students with disabilities or disabling health conditions who need accommodations are required to document their condition with the Student Accessibility and Inclusive Learning Services (SAILS). We encourage admitted students with disabilities or disabling health conditions who believe that they may need an accommodation to register with the SAILS prior to enrolling in the program. That way, all reasonable accommodations can be in place at the beginning of the program. Students who are registered with the SAILS will be key participants in establishing reasonable and appropriate accommodations with course instructors.

For information visit <https://eoss.asu.edu/accessibility>.

### **Writing Center**

The Writing Center, located on all ASU campuses and online, offers free tutoring for all enrolled students. All writers, including undergraduate and graduate students, can benefit from visiting the Writing Center to:

- Explore, plan, and develop ideas;
- Organize and structure a paper;
- Integrate and cite sources; and
- Write, revise, edit, and proofread.

For more information about ASU's Writing Centers, including how to make an appointment, visit <https://tutoring.asu.edu/student-services/writing-centers>.