
Term Information

Effective Term Autumn 2013

General Information

Course Bulletin Listing/Subject Area Sociology
Fiscal Unit/Academic Org Sociology - D0777
College/Academic Group Arts and Sciences
Level/Career Undergraduate
Course Number/Catalog 3210
Course Title Sociology of Culture and Popular Culture
Transcript Abbreviation Soc of Culture
Course Description This course provides a sociological understanding of culture including the influence of culture on inequality and social change and sociological interpretations of popular culture. The course will examine how sociologists define and empirically study culture; theoretical approaches; aspects of culture including media, consumer goods, etc; prevalence of cultural patterns in all societies
Semester Credit Hours/Units Fixed: 3

Offering Information

Length Of Course 14 Week, 12 Week (May + Summer)
Flexibly Scheduled Course Never
Does any section of this course have a distance education component? No
Grading Basis Letter Grade
Repeatable No
Course Components Lecture
Grade Roster Component Lecture
Credit Available by Exam No
Admission Condition Course No
Off Campus Never
Campus of Offering Columbus

Prerequisites and Exclusions

Prerequisites/Corequisites
Exclusions

Cross-Listings

Cross-Listings

Subject/CIP Code

Subject/CIP Code 45.1101
Subsidy Level Baccalaureate Course
Intended Rank Sophomore, Junior

Quarters to Semesters

Quarters to Semesters

New course

Give a rationale statement explaining the purpose of the new course

We do not currently offer a course on the Sociology of Culture. This is a core area of study in the discipline and our focus on social inequality, sociological theory, and empirical analyses of culture distinguishes our approach from current offering

Sought concurrence from the following Fiscal Units or College

Womens, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Communication, English, Comparative Studies

Requirement/Elective Designation

The course is an elective (for this or other units) or is a service course for other units

Course Details

Course goals or learning objectives/outcomes

- Students will understand sociological definitions of culture and theoretical and empirical approaches to studying culture from a sociological perspective.
- Students will understand the role of culture in contributing to social inequality and social change.
- Students will be familiar with three dominant theoretical approaches to understanding culture and use these approaches to analyze key aspects of culture including media, consumer goods, food, clothing, etc.

Content Topic List

- Definitions and Theoretical Understandings of Culture
- Repertoires and the Meaning of Culture
- Culture, Popular Culture and Status / Power
- The Production of Culture and Popular Culture
- Cultural Frameworks and Identities
- Culture, Social Change and Challenge

Attachments

- SOC 3210 Sociology of Culture_syllabus.pdf: syllabus
(Syllabus. Owner: Williams, Kristi L.)
- SOC3210ConcCommunication.pdf: Concurrence from Communication
(Concurrence. Owner: Williams, Kristi L.)
- SOC3210ConcWGSS.pdf: Concurrence from WGSS
(Concurrence. Owner: Williams, Kristi L.)
- SOC3210ConcComparativeStudies.doc: Concurrence from Comparative Studies
(Concurrence. Owner: Williams, Kristi L.)
- SOC3200ConcEnglish.pdf: Concurrence from English
(Concurrence. Owner: Williams, Kristi L.)
- Course Proposal Appeal.doc: Appeal for Autumn 2013 offering
(Appeal. Owner: Williams, Kristi L.)

Comments

- Please change effective term to SP 2014 or attach appeal. See deadlines here:
<http://ascas.osu.edu/curriculum/important-deadlines> *(by Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal on 01/09/2013 12:58 PM)*

COURSE REQUEST
3210 - Status: PENDING

Last Updated: Vankeerbergen, Bernadette
Chantal
01/30/2013

Workflow Information

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Williams, Kristi L.	01/09/2013 11:48 AM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Williams, Kristi L.	01/09/2013 11:48 AM	Unit Approval
Approved	Haddad, Deborah Moore	01/09/2013 12:41 PM	College Approval
Revision Requested	Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal	01/09/2013 12:58 PM	ASCCAO Approval
Submitted	Williams, Kristi L.	01/24/2013 02:15 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Qian, Zhenchao	01/24/2013 02:21 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Haddad, Deborah Moore	01/24/2013 02:32 PM	College Approval
Pending Approval	Nolen, Dawn Jenkins, Mary Ellen Bigler Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal Hogle, Danielle Nicole Hanlin, Deborah Kay	01/24/2013 02:32 PM	ASCCAO Approval

Vincent Roscigno, Ph.D.
Office: Townshend Hall 207
Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 9:30-11am and by appointment
Phone: 292-1618
E-mail: Roscigno.1@osu.edu

**SOCIOLOGY OF CULTURE AND POPULAR CULTURE
SOC 3210
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY—FALL SEMESTER 2013**

Culture refers to the codes with which meaning is constructed, conveyed, and understood ... cultures are maps of meaning through which the world is made intelligible. Cultures are not simply systems of meaning and value carried around in the head. They are made concrete through patterns of social organization.
– Jackson, P., *Maps of Meaning*, 1989

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION: This course introduces students to study of culture from a sociological perspective, and with attention to elements of culture, culture and inequality, popular culture and how to interpret it, and culture and social change. We will begin the course with a general view of what culture is and is not, how sociologists define culture, and how they study it empirically. In this regard, we will discuss three dominant theoretical approaches to understanding the importance of culture. This will be followed by readings centering on particular aspects of culture, including media, consumer goods, cultural icons, food, clothing, etc. Although somewhat society-specific, we will conclude the course by observing the various ways in which cultural patterns discussed throughout the course, in fact, prevail in all societies albeit in unique forms.

COURSE READINGS:

Spillman, Lynn. 2002. *Cultural Sociology: A Reader*. Malden, Mass. & Oxford: Blackwell.

Gans, Herbert. 1999. *Popular Culture and High Culture: An Analysis and Evaluation Of Taste Revised and Updated*. New York: Basic Books.

REQUIREMENTS: Grades will be based on 2 in-class essay exams, and in class participation/writing summaries:

Exams: You will be examined twice over the course of the semester, each exam covering half of the course material and each accounting for 35 percent of your overall grade. These exams will be in in-class essay format. You will receive a list of approximately 5 essay questions a week prior to the exam. This will serve as your overall study guide for the course materials. I will then pick two of these questions to comprise the in class essay exam, and you will be asked to answer both. Please note: There are **no make-up exams** xcept under very extreme circumstances, and would require you to contact me prior to the day of the exam. In such a situation, and if approved, you will be asked to provide official

documentation (e.g., a letter of serious illness or injury from a doctor detailing the date, time, and seriousness of your ailment, or a note from a minister or funeral director in the case of a death, etc. with contact information for the letter writer included).

Class Participation and Written Summaries: I expect students to 1) attend class, 2) be prepared for class, and 3) play an active role in class discussion. All three are crucial to the processing of information, and will make the class more interesting. To these ends, I will ask you to write very brief summaries of each reading for the day, and will collect these at the beginning of each class. All absences are unexcused unless the student obtains permission from me *beforehand*. Participation, including attendance and these written summaries, is worth 30 percent of your overall grade. Late summaries not turned in at the beginning of class will NOT be accepted, nor will summaries placed in my mailbox, under my office door, or emailed to me.

Grading: Exam 1 (35%), Exam 2 (35%), plus participation and summaries (30%).

Other Requirements: Be respectful of your instructor and fellow students. This includes the following: (1) being respectful of others and their opinions during discussions, even if their opinion differs from your own; (2) being considerate by coming to class on time and not leaving early, and by avoiding taking part in distracting behaviors – such as talking during lecture, reading newspapers, and eating during class. Annoying and distracting behaviors are problematic for instructors and your fellow students, and will not be tolerated; and (3) abiding by academic honesty guidelines as set out in the “Code of Student Conduct” section of the OSU *Resource Guide for Students*. Suspected violations of this code will be reported to the University’s Committee on Academic Misconduct. It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>.

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE
(ALL READINGS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF GANS, ARE INCLUDED IN THE SPILLMAN
READER)

August 22-27	What is Culture? Dominant Perspectives	READING Spillman, "Analyzing Culture in Society" Benedict, "The Diversity of Cultures"
August 29		Horkheimer and Adorno, "The Culture Industry" Boudieu, "Cultural Power"
Sept. 3		Video – "Merchants of Cool"
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	Repertoires and the Meaning of Culture	
Sept 5		Nippert-Eng, "Bounday Work" Kunda, "Corporate Culture"
Sept 10		Lamont, "Symbolic Boundaries and Status"
Sept 12		Bryson, "Symbolic Exclusion and Music Dislikes" Hunt, "Raced Ways of Seeing"
Sept 17		Eliasoph, "The Work of Avoiding Politics"
Sept 19		Discussion
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	Culture, Popular Culture, and Status/Power	
Sept 24-26		Gans, Introduction, Chapter 1 and postscript
October 1-3		Gans, Chapter 2 and postscript
October 8-10		Gans, Chapter 3 and postscript
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** October 15 -- First exam**		
	The Production of Culture and Pop Culture	READING
October 20		DiMaggio, "The Market Structure, Creative Proces and Popular Culture" Peterson, "Why 1955 and the Advent of Rock Music"
October 22		Becker, "Art Worlds" Griswold, "American Character and the Novel"
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October 24

Wagner-Pacifici, "The Vietnam Veterans Memorial"

Cultural Frameworks and Identities

October 29-31

Zerubavel, "Making Distinctions in Everyday Life"
Alexander, "The Discourse of American Civil Society"

November 5

November 7

Cerulo, "The Cognitive Structure of Right and Wrong"

Jacobs, "Civil Society and Crisis"

Culture, Social Change, and Challenge

November 12

Williams, "Constructing the Public Good"

November 14

Swidler, "Cultural Power and Social Movements"

November 19

Video – "Segments of Eyes on the Prize"

November 21-25

Sewell, "A Theory of Structure"
Wuthnow, "Communities of Discourse"

Nov. 27-Dec 3

Discussion

**** DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED BY REGISTRAR – Second Exam ****

Williams, Kristi

From: David Ewoldsen <ewoldsen.osu@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 29, 2012 6:56 AM
To: Williams, Kristi
Cc: Glynn, Carroll
Subject: Re: Concurrence Request: Sociology of Culture and Popular Culture (SOC 3210)

Dr. Williams,

Thank you for seeking out input on SOC 3210. After discussing this course with Dr. Glynn, we grant concurrence. The course takes a distinct look at the media from courses that we offer within the School and the media are not the main focus of the course.

Good luck with the new course.

Dave Ewoldsen

On Wed, Nov 28, 2012 at 12:08 PM, Williams, Kristi <williams.2339@sociology.osu.edu> wrote:

Dear Professors Ewoldsen and Glynn,

I am writing to concurrence from the Department of Communication for a new course proposal in the Department of Sociology on the Sociology of Culture and Popular Culture (SOC 3210). We are not requesting GE status for this course.

The course introduces students to study of culture from a sociological perspective, and with attention to elements of culture, culture and inequality, popular culture and how to interpret it, and culture and social change. We will begin the course with a general view of what culture is and is not, how sociologists define culture, and how they study it empirically. In this regard, we will discuss three dominant theoretical approaches to understanding the importance of culture. This will be followed by readings centering on particular aspects of culture, including media, consumer goods, cultural icons, food, clothing, etc. Although somewhat society-specific, we will conclude the course by observing the various ways in which cultural patterns discussed throughout the course, in fact, prevail in all societies albeit in unique forms.

In keeping with the sociological focus of the course, the primary textbook are:

Spillman, Lynn. 2002. Cultural Sociology: A Reader. Malden, Mass. & Oxford: Blackwell.

Gans, Herbert. 1999. Popular Culture and High Culture: An Analysis and Evaluation Of Taste Revised and Updated. New York: Basic Books.

I have attached the syllabus which includes more detailed information about the course topics and requirements. If you are able to offer concurrence, a reply to this email will suffice. However, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about the class.

Many thanks,

Kristi Williams

Associate Professor

Director of Undergraduate Studies

Department of Sociology

155 Townshend Hall

1885 Neil Avenue Mall

The Ohio State University

Columbus Oh 43210

[614-688-3207](tel:614-688-3207)

Williams, Kristi

Subject: FW: concurrence request for Sociology of Immigration

From: Beer, Lexie
Sent: Friday, December 07, 2012 12:28 PM
To: Williams, Kristi
Subject: Re: concurrence request for Sociology of Immigration

Hi Kristi -

The WGSS Undergraduate Studies committee supports concurrence for both Sociology of Culture and Sociology of Immigration.

Best,
Lexie

LEXIE R. BEER | Program Coordinator | Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies

From: "Williams, Kristi" <williams.2339@sociology.osu.edu>
Date: Tue, 4 Dec 2012 16:51:34 -0500
To: "Beer, Lexie" <Beer.42@osu.edu>
Subject: RE: concurrence request for Sociology of Immigration

Thanks so much, Lexie. The Sociology of Immigration syllabus is attached. I also attached the Sociology of Culture syllabus for which we are also seeking concurrence, in the event that you can just review both at the same time.

Best,
Kristi

From: Beer, Lexie
Sent: Tuesday, December 04, 2012 2:59 PM
To: Williams, Kristi
Subject: Re: concurrence request for Sociology of Immigration

Kristi,

So sorry, I forgot to ask. I am missing the immigration course syllabus since the email was sent to me as a reply from Jill. Could you perhaps send me that attachment, and I'll get them both out to our committee right away?

Thanks!
Lexie

LEXIE R. BEER | Program Coordinator | Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies

From: Kristi Williams <williams.2339@sociology.osu.edu>
Date: Tue, 4 Dec 2012 09:41:52 -0500
To: "Beer, Lexie" <Beer.42@osu.edu>
Subject: Re: concurrence request for Sociology of Immigration

Many thanks for looking into it!

Best,
Kristi

On 12/4/12 9:27 AM, "Beer, Lexie" <Beer.42@osu.edu> wrote:

Hi Kristi,

We don't have another meeting this semester. However, I'll ask our chair if she is willing to circulate via email. I'll let you know if we are able to go that route!

Lexie
LEXIE R. BEER | Program Coordinator | Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies

On 11/20/12 12:06 PM, "Bystydzienski, Jill" <Bystydzienski.1@osu.edu> wrote:

Dear Kristi,

I'm copying Lexie Beer, WGSS Undergraduate Coordinator, on this message. She will present your request for concurrence to our Undergraduate Studies Committee.

Jill

Jill Bystydzienski
Professor and Chair
Department of Women's, Gender
and Sexuality Studies
The Ohio State University

From: Williams, Kristi
Sent: Tuesday, November 20, 2012 10:48 AM
To: Bystydzienski, Jill
Subject: concurrence request for Sociology of Immigration

Dear Professor Bystydzienski,

I am writing to ask for concurrence for a new course proposal in the Department of Sociology on the Sociology of Immigration (SOC 3200). I wasn't sure who the Director of Undergraduate Studies is in your department so feel free to forward this email to the appropriate person if necessary.

The course will be taught by Professor Reanne Frank and has the central goal of providing a sociological understanding of contemporary migration both globally and with a particular focus on the case of the U.S. Sociologists tend to emphasize social relations as central to understanding the processes of migration and immigrant incorporation and this is a dominant focus of the course. Key questions addressed from this perspective include: 1) Why does migration occur? 2) How is it sustained over time? 3) How are immigrants incorporated into the host society?

In keeping with the sociological focus of the course, the primary textbook is: Portes, Alejandro and Rubén Rumbaut. 2006. *Immigrant America: a Portrait*. Third Edition. Berkeley: University of California Press.

I have attached the syllabus which includes more detailed information about the course topics and requirements. If you are able to offer concurrence, a reply to this email will suffice. However, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about the class.

In other news, you may know that I was recently chair of the Department of Sociology's Search Committee for the Assistant Professor position in Gender Stratification. It was a pleasure working with Wendy Smooth and getting to know other members of your department through our joint recruiting activities. I haven't heard a recent update on negotiations with Corinne Reczek but I'm optimistic that we will be successful. I think she will be a great addition to both of our departments.

Many thanks,

Kristi

Kristi Williams
Associate Professor
Director of Undergraduate Studies
Department of Sociology
155 Townshend Hall
1885 Neil Avenue Mall
The Ohio State University
Columbus Oh 43210
614-688-3207



Department of Comparative Studies

451 Hagerty Hall
1775 College Road
Columbus, OH 43210

Phone (614) 292-2559
E-mail shank.46@osu.edu

December 3, 2012

Kristi Williams
Department of Sociology
155 Townshend Hall
1885 Neil Avenue Mall
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Kristi,

This letter is confirmation of our concurrence with your proposed course SOC3210, Sociology of Culture and Popular Culture. This course should make a fine addition to the university's offerings in popular culture. We appreciate your assurance that this course will be taught by a tenure track faculty member when it is offered, and we look forward to linking this course with the Popular Culture Studies minor.

Yours,

Barry Shank
Professor & Chair

Williams, Kristi

From: Dutton, Richard
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 11:20 AM
To: Williams, Kristi; Wilson, Luke
Cc: Gardner, Jared
Subject: RE: Concurrence Request: Sociology of Culture and Popular Culture (SOC 3210)

Dear Kristi,

My apologies. I was under the distinct impression that I had replied. The Department of English is happy to grant concurrence for SOC 3210, Sociology of Culture and Popular Culture.

Sincerely, Richard

Richard Dutton,
Humanities Distinguished Professor and Chair,
Department of English,
Ohio State University

tel: 614 292 5802

From: Williams, Kristi
Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 10:03 AM
To: Dutton, Richard; Wilson, Luke
Cc: Gardner, Jared
Subject: RE: Concurrence Request: Sociology of Culture and Popular Culture (SOC 3210)

Dear Richard, Luke, and/or Jared,

I wonder if you have had a chance to review our concurrence request for the new course on Sociology of Culture and Popular Culture (SOC 3210). I have reattached the syllabus for your review. One other piece of information that may be relevant. We expect that the course will be regularly offered by Professor Vinnie Roscigno (University Distinguished Scholar) and we hope it will be a valuable addition to student options for the Popular Culture Studies minor. If you approve, an email indicating concurrence from the Department of English will suffice.

Many thanks,
Kristi

From: Dutton, Richard
Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2012 1:47 PM
To: Williams, Kristi; Wilson, Luke
Cc: Gardner, Jared
Subject: RE: Concurrence Request: Sociology of Culture and Popular Culture (SOC 3210)

Hi Kristi,

Thanks for this. Luke and I are sharing it with Jared Gardner, who heads up PopularCulture within English. We'll get back to you when we've conferred.

Best, Richard

Richard Dutton,

Humanities Distinguished Professor and Chair,
Department of English,
Ohio State University

tel: 614 292 5802

From: Williams, Kristi

Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2012 12:14 PM

To: Wilson, Luke; Dutton, Richard

Subject: Concurrence Request: Sociology of Culture and Popular Culture (SOC 3210)

Dear Professors Dutton and Wilson,

I am writing to request concurrence from the Department of English for a new course proposal in the Department of Sociology on the Sociology of Culture and Popular Culture (SOC 3210). We are not requesting GE status for this course.

The course introduces students to study of culture from a sociological perspective, and with attention to elements of culture, culture and inequality, popular culture and how to interpret it, and culture and social change. We will begin the course with a general view of what culture is and is not, how sociologists define culture, and how they study it empirically. In this regard, we will discuss three dominant theoretical approaches to understanding the importance of culture. This will be followed by readings centering on particular aspects of culture, including media, consumer goods, cultural icons, food, clothing, etc. Although somewhat society-specific, we will conclude the course by observing the various ways in which cultural patterns discussed throughout the course, in fact, prevail in all societies albeit in unique forms.

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Spillman, Lynn. 2002. Cultural Sociology: A Reader. Malden, Mass. & Oxford: Blackwell.

Gans, Herbert. 1999. Popular Culture and High Culture: An Analysis and Evaluation Of Taste Revised and Updated. New York: Basic Books.

I have attached the syllabus which includes more detailed information about the course topics and requirements. If you are able to offer concurrence, a reply to this email will suffice. However, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about the class.

Many thanks,

Kristi Williams
Associate Professor
Director of Undergraduate Studies
Department of Sociology
155 Townshend Hall
1885 Neil Avenue Mall
The Ohio State University
Columbus Oh 43210
614-688-3207



Department of Sociology

College of Arts and Sciences
238 Townshend Hall
1885 Neil Avenue Mall
Columbus, OH 43210

Phone (614) 292-6681
Fax (614) 292-6687
<http://sociology.osu.edu>

January 24, 2013

Dear Colleagues:

We are requesting that our course proposal SOC 3210, Sociology of Culture and Popular Culture, be considered for an Autumn 2013 effective date. The process of obtaining concurrence from 4 departments took longer than expected and stretched across the winter break. As Barry Shank indicates in the Comparative Studies concurrence letter, they are eager to offer this course as an addition to the Popular Culture Studies minor and Professor Roscigno hopes to be able to offer it in Autumn 2013.

Sincerely,

Kristi Williams
Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies
Department of Sociology