

IDST Minor in Popular Culture

(Effective for the graduating class of 2006)

Minor director [Neal King](#)

The Minor in Popular Culture provides an understanding of the broadly shared cultures made possible by mass production. *Popular culture* includes all widely practiced and distributed expressions: news; entertainment; religion; sports; popular art; and styles of decoration, dress, and architecture. Familiarity with the forces that shape its production, and the uses that can be made of it by its audiences, allows students to develop skills fundamental to life in a consumer-capitalist economy and citizenship in an information age.

Minors learn the history of mass culture over the last few centuries, beginning with the invention of the printing press and the rise of mass literacy. The program addresses the role of technological and economic change in the development of popular culture, and then studies current theories and research. It focuses on the industries that produce and profit from mass culture, the audiences that make use of it, and the genres of design, entertainment, and enlightenment. Minors examine the uses of mass culture by politicians, entertainment companies, consumer-marketers, religious authorities, educators, designers, engineers, and various groups of consumers themselves. Topics include the rise of consumer capitalism, the state of mainstream religion, the roles of popular news and entertainment, the effects on audiences of mass media, and the postmodern turns in religion, entertainment, and design.

Students who want more information or who wish to complete this minor should consult its coordinator or the Advising office, Interdisciplinary Studies Major, 151 Lane Hall, 231-6630. Email: slusserc@vt.edu. Minor coordinator is Dr. Neal King, 341 Lane Hall, 231-8174. Email: nmking@vt.edu.

[Minor Checksheet](#) in Word

1. Required:

HUM 2504: Introduction to American Studies (<i>fall semesters</i>)	3 hrs
HUM 3034: Theories of Popular Culture (<i>fall semesters</i>)	3 hrs
HUM 4034: Functions of Popular Culture (<i>spring semesters</i>)	3 hrs

2. Three of the following, one of which must be at the 3000 or 4000 level

ARCH 4214: Frank Lloyd Wright: Buildings & Writings	3 hrs
AFST 2754: Sports & the Afro-American Experience	3 hrs
AFST 2774: Black Aesthetics	3 hrs
COMM 2054: Introduction to Film	3 hrs
HUM 4414: Critical Issues in Appalachian Studies	3 hrs
ENGL 1624: Introduction to Detective Fiction	3 hrs
ENGL 1654: Introduction to Science Fiction and Fantasy	3 hrs
ENGL 3524: Literature for Children	3 hrs
ENGL 3544: Literature and Film	3 hrs
ENGL 4674: Studies in Contemporary Culture	3 hrs
REL 2124: Religion in American Life	3 hrs

The following Topics courses may be used when the topics pertain to popular culture

AINS/HUM 4004: Topics in American Indian Studies	3 hrs
HUM 3024: Humanities and the Arts: Post Renaissance	3 hrs
HUM 4324: Topics in Religion and Culture	3 hrs
IDST 3114: Topics in Interdisciplinary Studies	3 hrs
WS 3004: Topics in Feminism	3 hrs

Humanities

