

Global Learning Semesters

Course Syllabus

Course: COMM-441 Media and Cultural Theory

Department: Communications

Host Institution: University of Nicosia, Nicosia, Cyprus



Course Summary		
Course Code	Course Title	Recommended Credit Hours
COMM-441	Media and Cultural Theory	3
Semester Offered	Contact Hours	Prerequisites
Spring	42	Senior Standing
Department	Level of Course	Language of Instruction
Communications	Upper Division	English

Course Description

Theoretical and substantive questions of class, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, 'race', and nation, are examined in the context of the course, together with the foundational arguments informing modernism and postmodernism., as well as the historical development of and relationship within and between theoretical and critical paradigms in media and cultural theory. The course also offers the students the opportunity to exercise critical analysis and evaluation of media and cultural objects from a variety of theoretical positions, examining the economic, technological, social and cultural determinants affecting the production and consumption of media and cultural objects.

Instructor

Dr Nayia Roussou

Course Aims and Objectives

The course aims at consolidating the knowledge, in the student, of major theoretical traditions and analytical paradigms in the study of Communication, Culture and Media, by tracing the development of theories and concepts in the field historically, including those of ideology and hegemony, critical theory, cultural materialism, structuralism, post-structuralism, psychoanalysis, modernity and postmodernity, and by examining how different theories may be used in the analysis of media and cultural phenomena. The overarching aim is to facilitate a theoretically sophisticated approach on the part of students to the practical criticism of media and culture.

Teaching Methods

The course is delivered through lectures, and practical exercises in discourse analysis, through viewing video o tapes and doing journalistic texts analysis.

Course Teaching Hours

42 hours of lecturing, combined with all other teaching methods. The course is delivered during the Fall and Spring semesters in 14 weeks (3 hours/week).

Evaluation and Grading

Mid-term:	35%
Final Exam:	45%
Final Project:	20%

Readings and Resources

Required Textbooks

(Chapters from):

- Ashcroft B. (ed) (94) The Postcolonial Studies Reader. Routledge Beck, U (1992) Risk Society, Sage.
Cahoone, L (ed) (1996) From Modernism to Postmodernism. Blackwell Davies, I (1995) Cultural Studies and Beyond, Routledge
Downing J. et al (eds) (1990) Questioning the media, Sage.
Morley, D. (1992) Television Audiences & Cultural Studies. Routledge.

Recommended textbooks

- Grossberg L. et al (eds) (1992) Cultural Studies. U. of Illinois Press.
Lash S. & Freidman J. (eds) (1992) Modernity & Identity. Blackweel