Course Title: Understanding Culture and Everyday Life

Course Code: C C C U 4 0 0 3

Aims and Objective

The course sets out to introduce students to the basic approaches and concepts in cultural studies by asking them to think critically about their everyday experiences. Students will be given the opportunity to analyze and explore a wide spectrum of contemporary cultural phenomena and trends including gender ideologies, spatial politics, concepts of dirt and hygiene, city and urban lifestyles, and the social and cultural meanings of technology. Students will learn how to explain, discuss, and evaluate issues by analyzing the ideologies and politics hidden in the very mundane everyday activities and gain insights into the goals and objectives of cultural studies as a discipline.

Intended Learning Outcomes of the Course

On completion of the course, students should be able to

ILO1. apply conceptual tools to analyze everyday cultural practices;
ILO2. explain critically the power politics between different social groups and institutions in everyday cultural practices;
ILO3. explain critically how cultural practices common to everyday life are shaped by prevailing ideologies in society.

Syllabus

1. Theorizing the everyday
   • Basic concepts on ideologies
   • Basic concepts on politics and everyday life
2. Gender ideologies – gender as cultural construct; patriarchy
   • Distinction between sex and gender
   • Judith Butler’s concepts on gender performativity
   • Everyday interpellation of gender
3. ‘Dirt’ as a matter of judgement – dirt as an idea and a means to exclude other social groups (race, gender and class stereotypes)
   • A social history of dirt
   • Dirt as ideological judgments
4. Spatial politics – the arrangement of space as a means to assert, sustain and reinforced power relations
   • Nature and politics of space
   • Debate on public and private space
5. City as cultural imaginary – urban and capitalist ideologies as manifested in city cultures; the imagined and the real
   • Privatization of public space in urban setting
   • Political economy and the emergence of global city
6. Technology and contemporary culture – the meaning of technoculture
   • Debate on digital culture – cyber democracy
   • Cyberspace and the perception of urban life
7. Power and resistance – cases of subversion and resistance
   • Nature and politics of graffiti

Assessment

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Assessment (Weighting)</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continuous Assessment (60%)</td>
<td>Participation (10%)</td>
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<td>Individual Essay (20%)</td>
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<td>Written Outline (10%)</td>
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<td>Group Presentation (20%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Examination (40%)</td>
<td>Written Examination</td>
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Pre-requisite(s)

Nil

Required and Recommended Reading

Recommended reading/references:


19.06.2017