FOCUS
This class focuses on what has sometimes been called "British" or "Marxist" cultural studies. I just call it "cultural studies," because varieties of this tradition have been the most salient in contemporary manifestations of cultural studies throughout much of the world.

GOALS
1. To develop an understanding of the history, theory, and methods of cultural studies.
2. To learn how/if cultural studies can inform your area of interest.
3. To learn (and enjoy learning) what cultural studies can teach us about meaning, difference, power, possibility, hope.

COURSE STRATEGY: To balance depth, breadth, ability, and pleasure, we will pay attention to:
1. Historical development of CS
2. Theoretical development of CS
3. Methodological issues in CS
4. Classic and contemporary studies
5. Interdisciplinary engagements

READINGS
Jennifer Daryl Slack and J. Macgregor Wise, Culture and Technology: A Primer (New York, Peter Lang, 2005).
Dick Hebdige, Subculture: The Meaning of Style (London: Methuen, 1979)

All other articles will be made available to you.

Jennifer Daryl Slack
304 Walker Hall
12:30-3:30 Thurs
also by arrangement
487-3228 (o) 337-0156 (h)
jdslock@mtu.edu

REQUIREMENTS
1. Attendance
2. Required Reading (readings in shadowed blocks, to be done by date listed on syllabus)
3. Participation in class discussions
4. 3 take home exams (6-8 pages each) analyzing aspects of the readings (and class discussion).
5. Sketch of a cultural analysis

GRADING
1. 3 exams = 20% each
2. Sketch of cultural analysis 20%
3. Participation, preparation, attendance = 20%

You must complete all assignments - on time unless otherwise arranged - to receive a passing grade. More than two absences will lower your grade. I's or X's are only given in exceptional circumstances.

**MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, please call Dr. Gloria Melton, Associate Dean of Students (ext. 2212). For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head or chair, or the Affirmative Action Office (ext. 3310).
**It may be necessary to alter the syllabus as the quarter proceeds in order to better meet the instructional needs of the class.
SCHEDULE

Week 1  Jan 16  Introduction to Cultural Studies
Week 2  Jan 23  Introduction to Cultural Studies / Agency and Articulation
Week 3  Jan 30  Literary Humanist Roots / Culture / The Popular / The Everyday
Week 4  Feb 6  Marxism / Structuralism / Economics, Politics, Ideology / Hegemony
Week 5  Feb 13  Encoding-Decoding / Subcultures / Deviance
Week 6  Feb 20  Gender, Race, Class, Ethnicity, Difference / Identity
Week 7  Feb 27  The Textual
Week 8  Mar 6  The Auditory
Week 9  Mar 20  The Visual
Week 10  Mar 27  Materiality / The Body / The Environment
Week 11  Apr 3  Affect
Week 12  Apr 10  Cartography/Mapping
Week 13  Apr 17  Cartography/Mapping the Global
Week 14  Apr 24  Hope

SPRING BREAK

READINGS

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL STUDIES
Stuart Hall, "Representation and the Media" (video) or "Race, The Floating Signifier" (video) or "The Origins of Cultural Studies" (video)
Jennifer Daryl Slack and J. Macgregor Wise, Culture and Technology: A Primer (New York, Peter Lang, 2005, pp. 1-114

Additional Readings:
Stuart Hall, "The Work of Representation." In Stuart Hall (ed), Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices; ( Sage, 1997), 15-64. Recommended for those people new to issues of representation

WEEK 2: INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL STUDIES / AGENCY AND ARTICULATION
Jennifer Daryl Slack and J. Macgregor Wise, Culture and Technology: A Primer (New York, Peter Lang, 2005, pp. 114-196

Additional Readings:
Agency:
J. Macgregor Wise, Exploring Technology and Social Space (1997), "Beyond the Modern Episteme: Space and Agency in the Land of the Cyborgs" and "Living in a Deleuzian World." Chapters 2 and 3, pp. 82.

Articulation:
Lawrence Grossberg, "Articulation and Culture." Chapter 1 of *We Gotta Get Out Of This Place* (New York: Routledge, 1992), 37-67.

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**WEEK 3: LITERARY HUMANIST ROOTS, CULTURE, THE POPULAR, THE EVERYDAY**


Gregory J. Siegworth and Michael E. Gardiner, "Rethinking Everyday Life: And Then Nothing Turns Itself Inside Out." *Cultural Studies* 18: 2/3 (2004), 139-159. (This is an introduction to a special issue on "Rethinking Everyday Life.")

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Additional Readings:

**Literary Humanist Roots:**

**Culture:**

**The Popular:**
Lawrence Grossberg, *We gotta Get Out of This Place: Popular Conservatism and Postmodern Culture* (New York: Routledge, 1992).


**The Everyday:**


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**WEEK 4: MARXISM / STRUCTURALISM / ECONOMICS, POLITICS, IDEOLOGY / HEGEMONY**


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**Additional Readings:**

**Marxism:**


Karl Marx, Vol 1, Chapter 1, *Capital*

Karl Marx, "Preface" to Contributions to the Critique of Political Economy ("Marx on the History of His Opinions")

Karl Marx, Introduction to the *Grundrisse*

**Althusser / Ideology:**


Structuralism:

Gramsci / Hegemony:

WEEK 5: ENCODING-DECODING / SUBCULTURES / DEVIANCE

Additional Readings:

Encoding-Decoding:
David Morley, The 'Nationwide' Audience (London: British Film Institute, 1980)

Subcultures / Deviance:

WEEK 6: GENDER, RACE, CLASS, ETHNICITY, DIFFERENCE / IDENTITY


Additional Readings

Gender:


Donna Haraway, Modest Witness@Second_Millennium. FemaleMan_Meets-OncoMouse (New York: Routledge, 1997).

Race:


Catherine Hall (Ed.), Cultures of Empire: A Reader (New York: Routledge, 2000).

Class:

Ethnicity:

Identity:

**WEEK 7: THE TEXTUAL**

Additional Readings:

**WEEK 8: THE AUDITORY**
Danielle Makagon, "The Car Stereo" (audio).

Additional Readings:

**WEEK 9: THE VISUAL**
Additional Readings:

WEEK 10: MATERIALITY / THE BODY / THE ENVIRONMENT
Elizabeth Grosz, "The Thing" In Architecture From the Outside: Essays on Virtual and Real Space (Cambridge, MIT, 2001), 166-182.

Additional Readings:
The Environment:
The Body:

WEEK 11: AFFECT
Gilles Deleuze, Francis Bacon: The Logic of Sensation (London: Continuum, 2002), 1-43.

Additional Readings:
Patty Sotirin, Suckling Up to the BwO. In Jennifer Daryl Slack (ed), Animations (of Deleuze and Guattari) (New York: Peter Lang, 2003), 59-73.
Week 12: Cartography/Mapping


Additional Readings:

Hugh Brody, Maps and Dreams (New York: Pantheon, 1982).


Michael J. Shapiro, Violent Cartographies: Mapping Cultures of War (University of Minnesota, 1997).

Week 13: Cartography/Mapping the Global


Kuan-Hsing Chen, "Voices From the Outside: Towards a New Internationalist Localism." Cultural Studies 6:3 (1992), 476-.


WEEK 14: HOPE

Additional Readings:

THE ONGOING DEBATES: WHAT IS CULTURAL STUDIES?


Stuart Hall, "The Emergence of Cultural Studies and the Crisis in the Humanities." *October* 53 (1990), 11-23.


A VERY INCOMPLETE LIST OF WORTHWHILE BOOKS YOU MIGHT NOT ENCOUNTER OTHERWISE:

C.L.R. James, *Beyond a Boundary* (recently reissued, Duke, 1993).
Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms*.
SOME INTERESTING QUOTATIONS - ON WHAT CULTURE/CULTURAL STUDIES IS:

"By culture, here, I mean the actual, grounded terrain of practices, representations, languages and customs of any specific historical society. I also mean the contradictory forms of 'common sense' which have taken root in and helped to shape popular life." Stuart Hall, "Gramsci's Relevance for the Study of Race and Ethnicity"

"The very concept of culture itself is contextual or at least polysemic. It is caught between social formations, everyday life, and representational practices (or, to use more common terms, between community, a whole way of life, and maps of meaning)." Lawrence Grossberg, "Bringing it all Back Home: Pedagogy and Cultural Studies"

"Cultural processes do not correspond to the contours of academic knowledges, as they are. No one academic discipline grasps the full complexity (or seriousness) of the study. Cultural studies must be inter-disciplinary (and sometimes anti-disciplinary) in its tendency....This leads me to my preferred definitional strategy. The key questions are: what is the characteristic object of cultural studies? What is cultural studies about?" Richard Johnson "What is Cultural Studies Anyway?"

"Cultural Studies is concerned with describing and intervening in the ways discourses are produced within, inserted into and operate in the relations between people's everyday lives and the structures of the social formation so as to produce, resist and transform the existing structures of power." Lawrence Grossberg

"cultural studies is not one thing; it has never been one thing." Stuart Hall, "The Emergence of Cultural Studies and the Crisis in the Humanities"

"Now, does it follow that cultural studies is not a policed disciplinary area? That it is whatever people do, if they choose to call or locate themselves within the project and practice of cultural studies? I am not happy with that formulation either. Although cultural studies as a project is open-ended, it can't be simply pluralist in that way. Yes, it refuses to be a master discourse or a meta-discourse of any kind. Yes, it is a project that is always open to that which it doesn't yet know, to that which it can't yet name. But it does have some will to connect; it does have some stake in the choices it makes. It does matter whether cultural studies is this or that. It can't be just any old thing which chooses to march under a particular banner. It is a serious enterprise, or project, and that is inscribed in what is sometimes called the "political" aspect of cultural studies. Not that there's one politics already inscribed in it. But there is something at stake in cultural studies, in a way that I think, and hope, is not exactly true of many other very important intellectual and critical practices." Stuart Hall, "Cultural Studies and Its Theoretical Legacies" p. 263

To study cultural studies presents a series of challenges. First, because cultural studies has always been inter (and anti-) disciplinary and has always actively engaged theory and practice in other disciplines in changing historical circumstances, what constitutes its relevant literature is expanding and changing. Second, after having been marginal for some time, cultural studies has achieved a degree of institutional legitimization and academic popularity which presents new challenges. The adoption (and adaptation) of cultural studies by a wide range of traditional disciplines has resulted in a rapidly changing and contested terrain. Third, both the first and second challenges have contributed to the importance of asking the question "What IS cultural studies" as a way of negotiating these changes. Fourth, criticisms of cultural studies originating largely from outside its boundaries have further necessitated attention to clarify, define, and defend its boundaries. This need to define and defend its boundaries presents particularly vexing challenges for an approach largely defined by forms of interventionist politics that challenge boundaries!