Course Description:
A theoretical and methodological history of cultural studies (in the “British” tradition) with attention to varieties of application.

Course Goals:
1. Develop solid understanding of the history of theoretical and methodological debates in cultural studies.
2. Develop facility with key concepts in cultural studies: representation, difference, power, possibility, identity, agency, articulation, affect, assemblage, conjuncture, etc.
3. Develop ability to undertake theoretically informed cultural analysis

Course Strategy: To balance depth, breadth, ability, and pleasure, the course will address
1. Historical development of CS
2. Theoretical development of CS
3. Methodological issues in CS
4. Classic and contemporary studies
5. Interdisciplinary engagements

Readings
All other required readings will be accessed electronically.

Course Policies
Your attendance and participation are expected. After two absences, your grade will be lowered. All assignments must be completed to receive a final grade. The syllabus may be changed during the semester to meet instructional needs; any changes will be discussed during class.

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, contact your advisor, department chair, or the Affirmative Action Office (ext 3310).

Grading
Take-home exam........4 @ 20% each
Precis/Presentation 10%
Participation 10%

Test due dates marked in schedule with **
Course Schedule
Week 1 Cultural Studies and the Problematic of Representation
Week 2 What you can do with Cultural Studies vs What is Cultural Studies?
Week 3 Literary Humanist Roots, Culture, The Popular, The Everyday
Week 4 Marxism and Debates with Political Economy **
Week 5 Althusser and Structuralism
Week 6 Gramsci, Hegemony, War of Position, Two Paradigms
Week 7 issues of Identity: Subculture, Class, Race, Ethnicity, Gender **
Week 8 Encoding/Decoding, Power, Agency
Week 9 Articulation and Assemblage
Week 10 Affect **
Week 11 The Conjuncture
Week 12 Globalization (Thanksgiving break is between weeks 12 and 13)
Week 13 Presentations **
Week 14 Presentations

Reading Schedule:

Week 1: Cultural Studies and the Problematic of Representation
Stuart Hall, "Representation and the Media" (video) or "Race, The Floating Signifier" (video) or "The Origins of Cultural Studies" (video)

Week 2: What you can do with Cultural Studies vs What is Cultural Studies?

Week 2 Additional References:
See readings at the end of this syllabus
Week 3: Literary Humanist Roots, Culture, The Popular, The Everyday
Richard Hoggart, "Contemporary Cultural Studies: An Approach to the Study of Literature and Society." Occasional Paper #6 (Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies, Birmingham University, March 1969);

Week 3 Additional References:

Literary Humanist Roots:

Culture:

The Popular:
John Fiske, Understanding Popular Culture (Boston: Unwin Hyman, 1989).
Lawrence Grossberg, We Gotta Get Out of This Place: Popular Conservatism and Postmodern Culture (New York: Routledge, 1992)

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.")

**Week 4: Marxism and Debates with Political Economy**


**Week 4 Additional References:**

**Marxism:**


Karl Marx, Vol I, Chapter I, 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

**Week 5: Althusser and Structuralism**


Week 5 Additional References

**Althusser / Ideology:**

**Structuralism:**
Claude Levi Strauss, "Structural Analysis in Linguistics and Anthropology." In *Structural Anthropology*.

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**Week 6: Gramsci, Hegemony, War of Position, Two Paradigms**

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**Week 7: Issues of Identity: Subculture, Class, Race, Ethnicity, Gender**

Week 7 Additional References

Subcultures

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:
bell hooks, Where We Stand: Class Matters (New York: Routledge, 2000).

Ethnicity:

Identity:
Donna Haraway, When Species Meet (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2008).
Week 8: Encoding/Decoding, Power, Agency
J. Macgregor Wise, "Beyond the Modern Episteme: Space and Agency in the Land of the Cyborgs" and "Living in a Deleuzian World." Chapters 2 and 3 in Exploring Technology and Social Space (1997), pp. 82- .

Week 8 Additional References:
Encoding- Decoding:
David Morley, The 'Nationwide' Audience (London: British Film Institute, 1980).
Power:
John Fiske, Television Culture (Taylor and Francis, 2002).
Agency:

Week 9: Articulation and Assemblage
Lawrence Grossberg, "Articulation and Culture." Chapter 1 of We Gotta Get Out Of This Place (New York: Routledge, 1992), 37-67.
Week 9 Additional References:

Week 10: Affect

Week 10 Additional References:
Patty Sotirin, "Suckling Up to the BwO." In Jennifer Daryl Slack (ed.), *Animations of Deleuze and Guattari* (New York: Peter Lang, 2003), 59-73.
Christa Albrecht-Crane and Jennifer Daryl Slack, "Toward a Pedagogy of Affect." In Jennifer Daryl Slack (ed.), *Animations of Deleuze and Guattari* (New York: Peter Lang, 2003), 191-216.
Week 11: Mapping the Conjuncture

Week 11 Additional References
Deleuze, Gilles, Selections on the Control Society.
Elizabeth Grosz, "The Thing." In Architecture From the Outside: Essays on Virtual and Real Space (Cambridge, MIT, 2001), 166-182.
Hugh Brody, Maps and Dreams (New York: Pantheon, 1982).
Michael J. Shapiro, Violent Cartographies: Mapping Cultures of War (University of Minnesota, 1997).

Week 12: Globalization
Week 12 Additional References on Post Colonialism and Globalization


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


A Last Recommended Reading on Hope

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.


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


Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms*.


