This is a Lecture-Only Course. There are no Discussion Sections

Office Hours – Thursdays 1:30-3:30pm
498 Barrows Hall
Signup at: https://wejoinin.com/sheets/vbjif
Or by appointment – cmora@berkeley.edu

This class will introduce students to the sociology of culture. We will begin by examining the theoretical debates on what culture is, where it comes from, and how it works. We will then move on to examine empirical sites of cultural transmission – schools, immigrant communities, and religious institutions. We will end by examining the production of culture perspective and considering how mass media is produced and connected to social change.

Some of the questions this course will answer:
Why do some ideas seem timeless and inherently “true”?
How is action influenced by culture?
How does culture reinforce inequality?
How do ideas travel and become global?
How is media produced?
How can culture effect social change?

bCourses
Please make sure you have access to the bCourses website for this course. All of the readings for this course will be posted on bCourses. I will post also PowerPoint slides twice a week on the course website, usually shortly after class.

Grading
Midterm #1 – 30%
Midterm #2 – 30%
Midterm #3 – 30%
2 Pop Quizzes – 10%

Grievances
If you wish to contest a grade, you must come first submit a one-page statement explaining why you think the grading is unfair. Please note that I will not change any grade without first discussing it with your reader. Also consider that your grade may move upwards or downwards should I decide to re-grade.

Academic honesty
It is your responsibility to check the code of academic integrity at http://students.berkeley.edu/sas/conduct.shtml. The standard penalty for violations of this
code will be an F grade for the course

VIDEO/RECORDING AND LAPTOP POLICY
Students are not allowed to video or voice record lectures or class discussion. It is prohibited to do so for any reason.

LAPTOPS AND SMART PHONE DEVICES ARE NOT ALLOWED. For an overview of the research on student learning and laptop use in class see:

Mueller, Pam and Daniel Oppenheimer 2014. “The Pen is Mightier than the Keyboard; Advantages of Longhand Over Laptop Note Taking” Psychological Science 25(6)
Key Findings:
1. Laptops distract students and nearby peers
2. Students who took notes on laptops performed worse on conceptual learning than those who took notes longhand
3. Laptop note-taking seems to inhibit information processing (while encouraging transcription).

Readings
There are no required books for the course. All readings are available on BCourses. Note that you are required to bring the readings for the week to class in print. This means you can either print them beforehand or you can purchase the course reader.

Week 1 and 2. COURSE INTRODUCTION

January 16 Introduction

January 18 What is Culture?


Karl Marx and Frederick Engels “The German Ideology” P. 172-174 in Robert Tucker’s The Marx Engels Reader New York: W.W.Norton


January 23 & 25 Meaning Systems


Week 3. CATEGORIES AND INSTITUTIONS

January 30. The Social Construction of Categories

Bowker, Geoffrey and Susan Leigh Star *Sorting Things Out* Ch. 1

Bourdieu, Pierre “Naming as Power.” (Cultural Sociology by Wray)

February 1. Categories and Institutions (Race)


Week 4. CULTURE AND ACTION

February 6 Tool Kits


February 8 Cultural Tool Kits and Cultural Change

Patillo, McCoy “Church Culture as Strategy of Action in the Black Community.”

Barnes, Sandra “Black Church Culture and Community Action.”

WEEK 5. NATIONAL COMPARISONS

February 13

Tobin, Joseph et. al *Preschool in Three Cultures*. Ch. 1-3

February 15.

Tobin et. al. Conclusion

Midterm Review
WEEK 6. MIDTERM 1 and Cultural Capital

FEB 20 – Midterm One

FEB 22 – Habitus


WEEK 7. CULTURAL CAPITAL AND PRIVILEGE

February 27 Privilege


March 1 – NO CLASS (Catch up on Readings )

WEEK 8. CULTURE and IMMIGRATION.

March 6 Ethnicity and Adaptation


March 8 – Ethnicity/Race Across Generations


WEEK 9 GLOBALIZATION OF CULTURE – RELIGION

March 13 – How does culture become global?


March 15 - The Case of Global Pentecostalism

Week 10. GLOBALIZATION OF CULTURE AND MIDTERM 2

March 20 – Global Pentecostalism Continued


March 22 – Midterm 2

Week 11 – Spring Break 27, 29

Week 12. PRODUCTION OF CULTURE

April 3. Media and Hegemony


Peterson, Richard “The Production of Culture Perspective”

April 5 Reality TV

Grindstaff, Linda “The Money Shot”

WEEK 13 MARKETING AND CONSUMPTION

April 10 & 12. Targets and Markets


Turow, Joseph 2005 “Audience Construction” AAPS

Week 14. MAKING NEWS

April 17- Ritual and Constraint in News


April 19- News and Race


WEEK 15 - MEDIA AND SOCIAL CHANGE

April 24. Music and Social Movements

Danahe “Music and Social Movements” Sociological Compass


April 26- Social Media and Change

Harlow, Summer “Social Media and Social Change: Facebook and Online Guatemalan Justice Movement that Moved Off Line” New Media and Society.

Final Exam – May 11, 2018 11:30-2:30pm