

Introduction to British Cultural Studies

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Course description and objectives

The course aims to familiarize students with an overall perspective on British cultural studies as a highly interdisciplinary academic discipline. We will discuss various cultural methodologies underlying cultural studies, since they play a crucial role in interpreting the meaning of literature and cultural texts from a wide array of angles. Furthermore, the course focuses on potential definitions of the object of study, its genealogy and the examination of the relationship between cultural studies and other disciplines. There is also a practical component meant to provide students with multifarious interpretative grids prompted by contemporary cultural theory, which will enable them to place Cultural Studies at the intersection of disciplines, such as linguistics, sociology, psychology, cultural anthropology, semiotics, art theory, literary criticism, postcolonial studies, feminism, etc. Last but not least, the course is a springboard to post-graduate studies unfolding under the aegis of the British Cultural Studies Master's Programme of our faculty.

The course will cover the following major themes:

1. The British tradition of cultural studies and their characteristics
2. Polysemy and ambiguity
3. Text and context
4. Ideology, hegemony and power relations
5. Cultural industry – The Frankfurt School
6. Postmodernism and popular culture
7. Representing the “Other” from the perspective of race, gender and class
8. Consumer culture and subculture

Assessment

Class participation (30%), written test (70%).