

Introduction to British Cultural Studies

Assoc. Prof. Dragoş Ivana, PhD

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 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. Signifying practices: polysemy and ambiguity
3. Representation
4. Cultural materialism
5. Ideology, hegemony and power relations
6. Post-modern culture
7. Popular culture and the media
8. Representing the "Other" from the perspective of race, gender and class
9. Consumer culture
10. Youth culture and subculture

Assessment

Class participation/presentation (40%), written test (60%).

General bibliography:

1. Barker, Chris. *Cultural Studies: Theory and Practice*. 4th ed. New Delhi: Sage Publications India Pvt Ltd, 2012.
2. Lewis, Jeff. *Cultural Studies: The Basics*. 2nd ed. New Delhi: Sage Publications India Pvt Ltd, 2008.
3. Turner, Graeme. *British Cultural Studies. An Introduction*. 3rd edition. Routledge: London, 2002.