



**EFFECTIVE: JANUARY 2010**  
**CURRICULUM GUIDELINES**

**A. Division: EDUCATION Effective Date: JANUARY 2010**

**B. Department / Program Area: FACULTY OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES/ SOCIOLOGY** Revision  New Course

If Revision, Section(s) Revised:  
 Date of Previous Revision:  
 Date of Current Revision:

**C: SOCI 2255 D: THE SOCIOLOGY OF POPULAR CULTURE E: 3**

Subject & Course No.	Descriptive Title:	Semester Credits						
<p><b>F:</b> Calendar Description:</p> <p>This course uses various sociological perspectives to analyze the role of popular culture in society. The course examines the development and social significance of various forms of popular culture in the context of recent theories and debates about the relationship of culture to society. Representations of race, class, gender, and sexuality in popular culture will be analyzed. The course will also examine the role of popular culture in the maintenance of social inequality as well as its utility as a medium for challenging inequality.</p>								
<p><b>G:</b> Allocation of Contact Hours to Type of Instruction / Learning Settings</p> <p>Primary Methods of Instructional Delivery and/or Learning Settings:</p> <p><b>Lecture</b></p> <p>Number of Contact Hours: (per week / semester for each descriptor)</p> <p><b>Lecture: 4 hrs. per week/semester</b></p> <p>Number of Weeks per Semester:</p> <p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>H:</b> Course Prerequisites:</p> <p><b>SOCI 1125 or SOCI 1145 or SOCI 1155</b></p> <p><b>I:</b> Course Corequisites:</p> <p><b>NONE</b></p> <p><b>J:</b> Course for which this Course is a Prerequisite:</p> <p><b>NONE</b></p> <p><b>K:</b> Maximum Class Size:</p> <p><b>35</b></p>							
<p><b>L:</b> PLEASE INDICATE:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Non-Credit</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>College Credit Non-Transfer</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>College Credit Transfer:</td> </tr> </table> <p>SEE BC TRANSFER GUIDE FOR TRANSFER DETAILS (<a href="http://www.bctransferguide.ca">www.bctransferguide.ca</a>)</p>			<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Credit	<input type="checkbox"/>	College Credit Non-Transfer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	College Credit Transfer:
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**M: Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes:**

At the conclusion of the course the successful student will be able to:

1. Define popular culture.
2. Explain the difference between 'high' culture and 'popular' culture.
3. Explain the social organization of popular culture.
4. Summarize the sociological theories of popular culture.
5. Compare various perspectives on issues of debate in the sociology of popular culture.
6. Critically analyze conventional ideas about popular culture.
7. Explain the role of popular culture in reinforcing social inequalities.
8. Explain the role of popular culture in challenging social inequalities.
9. Explain the relationship between forms of popular culture and consumerism in society.

**N: Course Content:**

1. Defining popular culture
2. Culture and civilization
3. Culturalism
4. Marxist theory and popular culture
5. Post-structuralism and popular culture
6. Postmodernism and popular culture
7. Feminist approaches to popular culture
8. Representations of class in popular culture
9. Representations of gender and sexuality in popular culture
10. Representations of race in popular culture
11. Popular culture and consumerism

**O: Methods of Instruction:**

The course will employ a variety of instructional methods to accomplish its objectives, including some of the following:

- Lecture
- Small group exercises
- Class discussion
- Computer lab work
- Audio-visual materials
- Guest speakers

**P: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students:**

Examples of textbooks that may be used for this course include:

Storey, John (2009). *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture*. London: Pearson Longman.

Storey, John (ed.) (2009). *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture: A Reader*. London: Pearson Longman.

Kotarba, Joseph and Phillip Vannini (2009). *Understanding Society Through Popular Music*. New York: Routledge.

Danesi, Marcel (2008). *Popular Culture: Introductory Perspectives*. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers Inc.

Pomerance, Murray and John Sakeris (eds.) (2008). *Popping Culture*. Toronto: Pearson.

Guins, Raiford and Omayra Zaragoza Cruz (eds.) (2005). *Popular Culture: A Reader*. London: Sage.

Becker, Howard S. (1982). *Art Worlds*. Berkley: University of California Press.

**Q: Means of Assessment:**

Evaluation will take place in accordance with Douglas College policy. Evaluation will be based on course objectives and may include quizzes, exams, critical essays, literature reviews, term/research projects, media analyses, oral presentations, or multi-media presentations. The specific evaluation criteria will be provided by the instructor at the beginning of the course.

An example of one evaluation scheme:

One mid-term exam	30%
One annotated bibliography	15%
One research project	25%
One final exam	<u>30%</u>
	100%

**R: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition: specify whether course is open for PLAR**

No.

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Course Designer(s): Marni Westerman, Ph.D.

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Education Council / Curriculum Committee Representative

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Dean / Director: Kathy Denton, Ph.D.

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Acting Registrar: Brenda Walton