

Course: <b>Introduction to Cultural Studies</b>				
Course code	Course status	Semester	ECTS credits	Number of lessons
UKS	optional	6 <sup>th</sup>	5	2+1

**The course is organized within the following study programs:**

English Language and Literature

**The course is conditioned by the following courses:**

British Culture and American Culture

**Course aims and objectives:**

After completing the course, students are supposed to master key terms and argumentation regarding the basic concepts and theories of the course, as well as to apply them to specific social situations. While studying the mandatory reading materials, students are writing "reading diaries", the overview of a book and the final theoretical paper regarding one of the cultural studies issues.

**Learning outcomes:**

After completing this course, the students will master the theoretical apparatus from Structuralism, Marxism, Feminism and Postcolonial theory, and independently address a social topic through final work by using this theoretical language and articulating the corresponding social critique.

**Teaching staff:**

**Teaching and learning methods:**

Lectures and practical classes. Tests and the final exam. Presentations. Group work. Individual work.

**Course description:**

This course represents the introduction to complex relationships among different forms of power, knowledge and contemporary criticism. The heterogeneous and eclectic field of cultural studies combines theoretical movements such as Marxism, Feminism, Post-structuralism, etc. and integrates the concepts of culture, ideology, globalization, politics, knowledge and meanings, while dealing with subjectivities, i.e. identities and issues of race, class, gender, ethnicity, nation, sexuality, etc.

Preparatory week	Preparing for the semester and semester registration
Weeks 1 and 2	Introduction to cultural studies. Key concepts in cultural studies: culture and signifying practices, representation, power, popular culture, texts and readers, subjectivity and identity. <b>Culture is ordinary.</b> Raymond Williams. <b>Essentialism and social constructivism.</b>
Weeks 3 and 4	Marxism and the centrality of <b>class</b> . The Frankfurt school (Adorno, Horkheimer, Marcuse, Benjamin, Habermas). Culture and social formation. <b>I inspection of reading diaries.</b>
Week 5	<b>Ideology.</b> Marxism and false consciousness, Althusser and ideological state apparatuses. Gramsci, ideology and hegemony. Adorno and Dialectics of the Enlightenment.
Week 6	<b>Modernity and postmodernity</b> . Postmarxism. Foucault: discourse, practice, power.
Week 7	Reading week. Revision and consolidation.
Week 8	Derrida: <b>textuality, difference, deconstruction.</b> <b>II inspection of reading diaries.</b>
Week 9	Lacan: <b>language and psychoanalysis</b> . Saussure and semiotics. <b>Signifying systems</b> . Barthes and mythology.
Week 10	Stuart Hall: <i>Representations and identities</i> . <b>Role of the media, public sphere</b> . Globalization/glocalization.
Week 11	Guest speaker TBA.
Week 12	<b>Ethnicity and 'imagined communities'</b> . Racial, ethnic and national identities. Hybrid identities. Postcoloniality. <b>III inspection of diaries.</b>
Weeks 13 and 14	Politics of difference: <b>feminism</b> . Judith Butler between Foucault and psychoanalysis. Biology as discourse. Sex and gender. Sexed subjects. Queer theory.
Week 15	Book reviews due. <b>IV inspection of diaries.</b>

**Student workload:**

Per week

2 lectures + 1 practical exercises

Per semester

30 lectures + 15 practical exercises

Students are required to attend lectures and practical classes.

**Mandatory reading materials:**

Barker, C. (2003) *Cultural Studies- Theory and Practice*. London: Sage

Other teacher-generated materials.

**Forms of assessment and evaluation of the students' knowledge:**

20% Diary: critical reading and writing (precondition for taking the final exam)

30% A book overview

50% Students write critical papers regarding a social topic using sources (7-10 pages)

The final grade represents the summation of all the aforementioned forms of assessment and evaluation of the students' knowledge.

-

**Specific remarks regarding this course:**

**Teacher who prepared the information sheet on the course:**

**Notes:**