

Cultural Studies

(Note: minor program only)

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MINOR

A minor in cultural studies provides students with an interdisciplinary approach to the study of culture. Cultural studies courses focus on the interrelationships between representations—visual, written, oral, etc.—and the world in which they are produced and consumed. The overarching concern of cultural studies is to explore how representations function to create and embody cultural meaning and values. Representations are cultural artifacts that stand for, symbolize, depict, or portray objects, people, thoughts, or emotions, etc. The minor introduces students to a variety of approaches to the analysis of culture, while permitting them to focus on a cluster area pertinent to their interests.

The minor in Cultural Studies consists of six courses. No more than two of the courses counting towards a cultural studies minor may count toward a departmental major. All students working toward the minor will be required to take 300 Introduction to Cultural Criticism, one elective course selected from a preapproved list, three courses in a cluster area of concentration, and 590 Cultural Studies Research Seminar.

ELECTIVES

Anthropology

ANTH 210 Myth and Life

ANTH 621 Development of Anthropological Theory

ANTH 683 Maya and Aztec Literature

Communication

COMM 426 Contemporary Culture and the Body

COMM 466 Youth Culture and the Mass Media

COMM 476 Cultural Studies and Popular Culture

COMM 481 Special Topics in Communication (when cultural studies topic)

Cultural Studies

CLST 480 Special Topics in Cultural Studies

English

ENLS 482 Colonial and Post-Colonial Discourse

ENLS 483 Race, Class, and Gender

ENLS 484 Performance Studies

ENLS 485 Cultural Politics and Practice

ENLS 486 Topics in Cultural Studies

French

FREN 301 Franco Women Writers in Translation

History

HISB 312 West African Culture and Society

HISB 322 Africa and Hollywood: Myth, Romance, and Savage Imagery

HISU 381 Southern Folk Culture

Latin American Studies

LAST 301 The Cultural Heritage of Latin America, Discovery to Independence

LAST 302 The Cultural Heritage of Latin America, Independence to Present

Spanish and Portuguese

SPAN 483 Hispanic Literature Topics in Translation: Renaissance Performances of Gender; Spanish Performances of the Subject; Culture and Technologies in Spanish America; Anatomies of Melancholy

AREAS OF CONCENTRATION

A cluster area of concentration consists of three courses (from at least two different departments) focused around an issue or problem in culture that demands interdisciplinary study. The cluster areas enable sustained analysis of how these problems or issues have been represented in specific historical and social contexts. Currently, the cultural studies cluster areas of concentration are:

Performances of Culture

This cluster allows students to investigate the role of performance as a way of representing important values and beliefs about the world. Courses address the creation and interpretation of performances in institutionalized theatre, festivals, political events, storytelling circles, etc. By examining the performative dimensions of, for example, racial stereotypes and national identities, these courses explore ways in which cultural status and values are represented for and by individuals through performances in both aesthetic and social contexts.

(Three of the following):

Classical Studies

CLAS 320 Greek Religion

English

ENLS 483 Race, Class, and Gender: Primitivism and Modernism; Machine Dreams

ENLS 484 Performance Studies

Music

MUSC 335 Music in Contemporary Society

Spanish and Portuguese

SPAN 483 Hispanic Literature Topics in Translation: Renaissance Performances of Gender; Spanish Performances of the Subject

In addition to the courses listed above, other colloquia, seminars, independent studies, and special topics courses may be applied to the cluster area subject to approval by the directors of the program. For complete information about these courses, consult the *Schedule of Classes* or obtain a current course description from the co-directors of the program.

Natures, Technologies, Cultures

This cluster examines how the intersection of the natural/human and the technological/human have been represented in scientific, medical, philosophical, aesthetic, and other discourses. Courses in the cluster area explore how a range of popular and scholarly scientific discourses and technologies have influenced how people think about and represent human bodies, diseases, and ways of organizing and understanding nature. Other courses focus on how technologies such as handwriting and computers have been represented and interpreted as extensions of or substitution for the natural and the human.

(Three of the following):

Communication

COMM 426 Contemporary Culture and the Body

English

ENLS 483 Race, Class, and Gender: Machine Dreams

ENLS 485 Cultural Politics and Practice: The AIDS Crisis

ENLS 486 Topics in Cultural Studies: Men, Women, Bodies, Machines

Philosophy

PHIL 334 Humanity's Place in Nature

Physics

PHYS 304 Approaches to the Scientific Revolution

Spanish and Portuguese

SPAN 483 Hispanic Literature Topics in Translation: Culture and Technologies in Spanish America; Anatomies of Melancholy

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CLST 300 Introduction to Cultural Criticism (3)

Ms. Balides, Ms. Koritz, Ms. Lopez, Ms. Nair. Examination of the major concepts of culture from the late 19th century to the present as they relate to the analysis of cultural practices and texts. Specific emphasis on the interdisciplinary nature of cultural analysis, the relation between elite and popular cultures, dominant formations and the resistance to them, and intercultural encounters.

CLST 480 Special Topics in Cultural Studies (3)

Staff. An in-depth examination of specific cultural studies topics which may be drawn from any of the areas of concentration, for example the body in the Western tradition or the rhetoric of scientific invention. May be taken twice for credit on different topics.

CLST 590 Cultural Studies Research Seminar (2)

Ms. Koritz, Ms. Lopez. This seminar will enable students to integrate the multi-disciplinary course work taken as a cluster area of concentration. Students will meet regularly with the professors, either individually or in groups, and will be expected to produce a substantial research paper. This paper should demonstrate their ability to synthesize diverse disciplinary and theoretical approaches to some aspect of the cluster area and to analyze its relationship to a specific cultural context.