


View Syllabus Information

Even after classes have commenced, course descriptions and online syllabus information may be subject to change according to the size of each class and the students' comprehension level.

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Course Information

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|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|------------------|
| Year | 2020 | School | School of International Liberal Studies | |
| Course Title | Culture in Context | | | |
| Instructor | FIELD, Malcolm | | | |
| Term/Day/Period | spring semester Thur.4 | | | |
| Category | Intermediate Subjects | Eligible Year | 2nd year and above | Credits 2 |
| Classroom | 11-704 | Campus | waseda | |
| Course Key | 210CU31000 | Course Class Code | 01 | |
| Main Language | English | | | |
| Course Code | CMFC231L | | | |
| First Academic disciplines | Composite Fields Studies | | | |
| Second Academic disciplines | Culture | | | |
| Third Academic disciplines | Cultural Studies | | | |
| Level | Intermediate, developmental and applicative | Types of lesson | Lecture | |

Syllabus Information
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Course Outline This interactive lecture-based course seeks to identify what it is people mean when they invoke the term 'culture'. Throughout, we will critique the term "culture" in different contexts to examine whether it is a defensible position to justify the activities of different actors. To achieve this, we will examine our own position, critique it, then develop a defensible stance that defines and understands culture/s. We will consider how culture is transmitted, how it evolves, the

different values it promotes, whether culture has boundaries, and critique the concepts of gender and nationality in culture. Particular focus will be placed upon five topics. (1) Identity, through which we consider how culture/s use tools to create and maintain individual and group identity. (2) Cultural Legitimacy, where the ideas of cultural relativism, consumerism (Pop v Mass) are addressed. (3) Language, through which we consider semiotic values and examine how cultures utilize the media to reinforce values. This will then lead us to (4) Taboo, wherein we will critique real world contemporary examples to consider our values, ethics and morality. And (5) we will reflect on the way our brains process and make sense of the information in the worlds we create - cultural cognition.

Objectives By the end of this course you should be able to recognize how the term culture is applied to sustain “values”. As this course blends practical components to demonstrate culture in context, you should be able to critique your own values and understand how you process information and identify with the world around you. You will be expected to demonstrate both theoretical and applied knowledge by the end of the course.

Course Schedule Topics to be discussed in this class include

1. Introduction and Course Outline
2. Identity: Who am I? Is it important?
3. Culture shock and cross-cultural discovery: if it is so easy then...?
4. Introduction to cultural theory: (which may include identity, representation, high culture, mass culture, pop culture, constitutive theory, critical theory, feminism)
5. Theory continued
6. Cultural legitimacy (relativism, consumerism and globalization)
7. Cultural legitimacy continued
8. Language in Culture
9. Language in Culture (etymology)*
10. Taboo
11. Taboo continued*
12. Viewing the World: Practical Application
13. Cultural imperialism and theories of ‘your’ culture#
14. Technology and culture (contemporary trends)
15. Conclusions and Evaluation

The order and detailed schedule may change as interest and need arises. Notes will be given in each class for your reference. Weekly access to a computer is a must in this course. No topic will need prior preparation unless stated in class.

Textbooks Additional readings will be given in class.

Evaluation The grading will be based on the results of the following items.

Practical Task: 40% (Tokyo-based video context task)

Workshop: 10% (applied task/s in class)

Random Class Task: 10%

Position Paper: 40% (academic paper)

Note / URL

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