

City University of Hong Kong

**Information on a Course
offered by Department of School of Creative Media
with effect from Semester B in 2006 / 2007**

This form is for completion by the Course Co-ordinator. The information provided on this form will be deemed to be the official record of the details of the course. It has multipurpose use: for the University's database, and for publishing in various University publications including the Blackboard, and documents for students and others as necessary.

Please refer to the Explanatory Notes attached to this Form on the various items of information required.

Part I

Course Title: Cultures and Identities

Course Code: SM3112

Course Duration: One semester

No. of Credit Units: 3

Level:

Prerequisites: *(Course Code and Title)* SM3125 Critical theory of society

Precursors: *(Course Code and Title)*

Equivalent Courses: *(Course Code and Title)*

Exclusive Courses: *(Course Code and Title)*

Part II

1. Course Aims:

As an advanced-level follow-up from Critical Theories for Society, this course appeals to a Cultural Studies paradigm that draws from sociology, anthropology, media studies as well as literary theories to examine the question of *culture* and *identity*. With the stress on *power*, the course asks students to do cultural research on how and why the world is experienced so and with what effects. Since this course is about *doing* cultural studies, it foregrounds research practice and research processes as praxis informed by theory.

At the end of the course, students should:

- Identify a variety of theory-informed approaches to the understanding of culture and the question of identity-negotiations, and how selves and identities are constructed in private and public life;
- Apply ethnographic research methods to do cultural research;
- Develop dialogues between informed theories and everyday practices – reflect on experience through a theoretical lens and letting what is learned in the living test and develop theories.
- have a full grasp of culture as *everyday practices* and the possibilities of *micro-politics*;
- be able to engage in local cultural issues in Hong Kong critically, and be able to produce their own cultural research in written form.

Standing by the belief in full autonomy of creative media professionals, the course seeks to help students engage critically with, and draw inspirations from, the social-cultural realities in which they work.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance)

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

No.	CILOs	Weighing (if applicable)
1.	Identify the concept of “culture as ordinary”	
2.	Apply research methods in their own cultural research	
3.	Relate cultural theories to their research project	
4.	Analyze critically the relation of culture, power, state, and global order	
5.	Create their own dossier of case studies	
6.	Write their research paper	

3. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs)

ILO No	TLAs	Hours/weeks (if applicable)
CILO 1-4	Instructor's overview on international and local cultural research to: 1. explain theories in the study of cultural politics: Williams, De Certeau, Foucault, reception studies, Goffman, Lefebvre	6 weeks
	2. illustrate methods of doing cultural research: interview, fieldwork, coding	6 weeks
CILO 1-4	Small group discussion on assigned readings	5 hours
CILO 2-4, 6	Individual presentation in small group section or 1 to 1 section on students' research project	7 times
CILO 5	Log-book	Continuous

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities

(designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs)

ILO No	Type of assessment tasks/activities	Weighting (if applicable)	Remarks
CILO 1	Response paper to Williams' “Culture is ordinary”	15%	
CILO 2-4	Oral presentation (2 times)	20%	
CILO 2-4	Individual section (3 times)	15%	
CILO 5	Log book	10%	
CILO 2-4, 6	Research paper	40%	

5. Grading of Student Achievement:

Refer to Grading of Courses in the Academic Regulations and to the Explanatory Notes.

Part III

Keyword Syllabus:

Production of social/cultural knowledge; cultural differences; resistance; power; subjectivities; identity formation; economic determinism; culture as a total way of life; culture as the imaginary and site of fantasy; cultural capital; culturalist perspectives; agency; hegemony; everyday creativity; presentation of the self in everyday dramaturgy; techniques of self; self technology; discourse analysis; the everyday; micro process of everyday life; everyday ethics; ethical incompleteness and citizenship; daily operations and consumer practices Ethno-methodologies; the life of objects; self narratives; visual ethnography; representing others; interviews; narrativity Henri Lefebvre, Michel de Certeau, Erving Goffman, Michel Foucault; Judith Butler.

Recommended Reading:

Text(s):

- Alexander, J. (1990). 'Analytic debates: understanding the relative autonomy of culture', J. Alexander and S. Seidman, (eds.) *Culture and Society: contemporary debates*, NY: Cambridge.
- Barker, Chris (2000). *Cultural Studies: Theory and Practice*. London, Thousand Oaks, New Delhi: Sage.
- Bennett, Tony (1998). *Culture: a reformer's science*. London, Thousand Oaks: Sage.
- Bourdieu, P. (1977), *Outline of a Theory of Practice*.
- Brewer, J. and Porter, R. (eds.) (1993), *Consumption and the World of Goods*, London, New De
Certeau, M. (1998), *The Practice of Everyday Life*, Berkeley, Los Angeles, London:
University of California Press.
- Chan, Anita and Wai-ling Wong, (eds.) (2004). *Gendering Hong Kong* 《香港性別論述》 Hong Kong: Oxford University Press.
- Clifford, James and George E. Marcus, (eds.) (1986). *Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography*. Berkeley: University of California.
- Eagleton, T. (1991), *Ideology: an Introduction*, London, New York: Verso.
- Emerson, R.M.; R.I. Fretz and L.L. Shaw. (2001). "Participant Observation and Fieldnotes," in Paul Atkinson (eds. et al), *Handbook of Ethnography*; London: Sage. Hockings, Paul (ed.) (1975). *Principles of Visual Anthropology*. The Hague: Mouton Publishers. Jarvie, I.C. (1983). "Problem of Ethnographic Real." *Current Anthropology* 24: 313-25.
- Gray, A. and McGuigan, J. (eds.) (1997), *Studying Culture: an Introductory Reader* (second edition), London, New York, Sydney, Auckland: Arnold.
- Jenkins, R. (1996), *Social Identity*, London, New York: Routledge.
- Lefebvre, H. (1991), *Critique of Everyday Life, v.1 - Introduction*. London, New York: Verso.
- Martin, L. H., Gutman, H. and Hutton, P.H. (eds.) (1988), *Technologies of the Self: a Seminar with Michel Foucault*, University of Massachusetts Press.
- Miller, T. and McHoul, A. (1998), *Popular Culture and Everyday Life*, London; Thousand Oaks, California: SAGE.
- Millen, D. (1997). "Some Methodological and Epistemological Issues Raised by Doing Feminist Research on Non-Feminist Women." *Sociological Research Online*, Vol. 2, No. 3.
- Ng, C.H, Lui T.L. & E. Ma (eds) (2005). *Hong Kong Style Cultural Studies* 《香港 . 普及 . 文化》 . Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
- Ng, Chun Hung and Chii-wai Cheung (eds.) (2002) *Reading Hong Kong Popular Cultures 1970-2000* 《閱讀香港普及文化 1970-2000》 Hong Kong: Oxford University Press.
- Pun, Ngai and Lai-man Yee (eds.) (2003) *Narrating Hong Kong Culture and Identity* 《書寫城市》 , Hong Kong: the University of Hong Kong Press
- Sinn, E. 洗玉儀 (ed) (1995), 《香港文化與社會》 *Culture and Society in Hong Kong*, Hong Kong: the University of Hong Kong Press.

Willis, S. (1991), *A Primer for Daily Life*, London, New York: Routledge.

Online Resources:

<http://www.hku.hk/hkcspl/>
http://www.isd.gov.hk/chi/tvapi/effort_c.html
<http://www.nuxingwang.org.hk/index.adp>
<http://www.rebuildhk.com/>
<http://www.ppwk.org/chi/questionnaire.htm>
<http://www.inmediahk.net/public/index>

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Date: 1 April 2006