

ENG 3850

Writing about Culture & Society



Location: Ellis Hall 011
Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays
3:05-4:25
Dates: Aug. 26 – Dec. 14, 2019

All course materials available in:

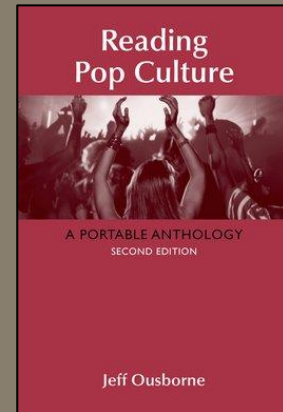


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Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:30-1:30 PM
Thursdays 4:30-5:30 PM
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Texts Preferred

Textbook



Reading Pop Culture: A Portable Anthology (2nd Edition)
Edited by Jeff Ousborne

Course Description

ENG 3850 is an advanced writing course focused on understanding and writing about culture and society. This section of the course will focus on popular culture texts and how these texts affect society. Students will be asked to analyze their own pop culture media consumption and understand the ways that these texts affect them and others.

Course Outcomes

Students will be able to do the following by the end of Writing about Culture & Society:

- Create their own theories about culture and society
- Analyze pop culture texts
- Use a variety of lenses to understand pop culture
- Place pop culture within dominant and subversive ideologies.

Disability Resources

If you have a physical or mental disability that may require special accommodations for this or other classes, please get in touch with [Student Accessibility Services](#) early in the semester. They can help you document your disability and negotiate accommodations with your professors. I'm happy to help provide a productive learning environment for you and encourage you to contact SAS, even if you feel accommodations will not be necessary.

Major Projects

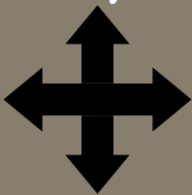
During this semester, you will complete two major writing projects.

Prosumer



The first major project is the Group Prosumer Project. The purpose of the assignment is to consider ways of becoming a “prosumer” (producer/consumer). You will be asked to create a small group of peers who are interested in working the same original pop culture text, such as a song, a video, a website, a comic book, a piece of art, or a game. You'll then write a short reflection explaining what you're trying to do with the text, who you're trying to reach with it, and how the text contributes to pop culture.

Analysis



The final major project is an analysis of a single pop culture text. You will analyze the text using some of the tools we've developed this semester. The analysis should be multimodal, meaning it includes ways of making meaning other than written words, such as images, sounds, or videos. The modes you use will largely depend on the text you choose. For example, if you were to choose a movie, you might include screen captures or video clips. You're welcome to do the analysis either as a traditional paper with embedded links and images or as a webtext, such as a video, podcast, or website. You will present your analysis during the final week of class.

Homework

Homework includes all assignments labelled as Applications, Artifacts, or Responses. Homework assignments are due 30 minutes prior to the start of class. Homework will not be accepted late without prior approval. No make-up assignments or extra credit will be given for missed homework. Most homework is easy to complete. Keep on top of the assignments in Schoology, and homework should be an easy part of your grade.



Types of Homework

There are three main types of homework for ENG 3850.

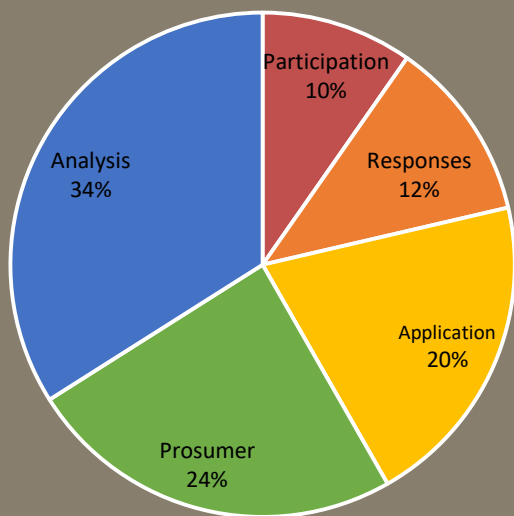
Responses are short written responses to things we have read, listened to, or watched. These should be between 300 and 500 words. Each response will include several questions to get you started, but you are not required to answer the questions. Instead, you're welcome to focus on any subject that was of interest to you from the text.

Applications are more involved than responses. These projects often encourage you to apply what we've been working. Applications include proposals for major projects, reflections on class material, and "mini" assignments to help prepare for major projects.

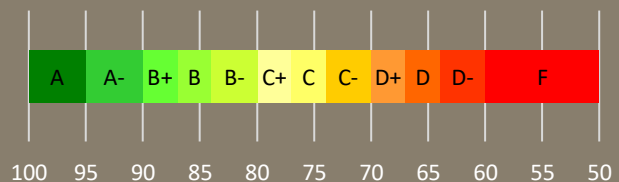
Artifacts are texts that you bring to class to analyze and discuss. You'll only be required to bring in an artifact once. Artifacts may include articles, video clips, songs, or anything else interesting to you. You'll be required to provide 3-5 discussion questions along with the artifact that you choose.

Grading

Your final grade will be broken down into the following percentages. For a more detailed breakdown, see the "Grade Breakdown" in Schoology.



Grading Scale



- A Outstanding:** Exceeded expectations for all class assignments.
- B Good:** Exceeded expectations for some class assignments.
- C Acceptable:** Met expectations for class assignments.
- D Unacceptable:** Did not meet expectations for some class assignments.
- F Failing:** Did not meet expectations for many class assignments.

Updates

This syllabus is subject to change. Any changes made will be posted to Schoology and notification will be sent to all students. If changes are made, please review them carefully.

Participation & Class Environment

Attendance

You are expected to attend every class session. If you miss a class without prior approval from me, you will lose all participation points for that day's class.

Lateness & Leaving Early

Please do not come late to class or leave early without permission. This is very disruptive to class activities. If you come late or leave early, you will lose $\frac{1}{2}$ of the participation points for that day.

Come to
Class
On Time



Discussion

You are expected to engage actively in class discussion. Some class content may be sensitive. Please be civil to other members of the class, and actively keep dialog open—even when you disagree. When offering feedback, please try to be polite. If you cannot remain civil, you will be asked to leave and will be counted absent.



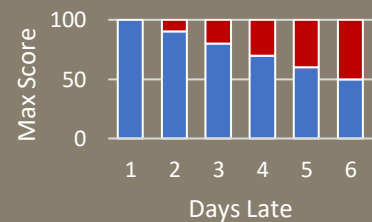
Tech

You are encouraged to use technology to help you learn. Please make sure that tech (cell phones, laptops, class computers, etc.) are used to add to class content, not to distract from it.



Late Major Assignments

Late homework assignments will not be accepted. Late major projects will only be accepted with prior approval. Except in extreme cases, late major projects will lose 10% per day until they are submitted.



Plagiarism

Plagiarism is any act of presenting work that you did not create as your own, such as:

- Copying all or part of an assignment from another person without giving that source credit. This includes words as well as media from both digital and analog sources.
- Purchasing an assignment or getting another person to write it for you.
- Allowing another person to substantially change your assignment.
- Presenting work done for another class for a grade in this class.

If it is unclear whether something is plagiarism or not, please ask in advance. Intentional, extensive, or flagrant plagiarism will result in failure of the course. Unintentional plagiarism will result in failure of that assignment.