

Soc. 459

Analysis of Popular Culture

Swift

Wednesdays 3:00pm-5:30pm

Analysis of games, television, toys, movies, sports, comics, fashions, etc. This course deals with the relations between popular culture and society.

The course is open to juniors, seniors and graduate students in all departments, and allows you to examine the aspects of popular culture which interest you. Some students may wish to concentrate on a particular topic while others may strive for a more general view of popular culture.

Classes will include analysis of current events, discussion of students' projects, videos, and conversations with guest speakers.

This is not a regular lecture course. You must attend all classes and participate in discussions. Your grade will depend on the number of assignments you complete satisfactorily.

#### ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES

To reduce anxiety about grades and to assist you in planning for this course, you may decide now what grade you realistically want to earn. This outlines the requirements for each grade:

To earn a D you must pass two essay

**EXAMINATIONS** Midterm exam on assigned readings from textbook\*  
Final exam on course (your evaluation and review of lectures, student reports, guest speakers...)

To earn a C (or CREDIT) requires passing the two exams plus satisfactory

**PARTICIPATION** Attendance and promptness\*\*  
Attention in class\*\*\*  
Asking questions and offering comments  
Making brief oral report (1 -2 minutes) on concept assignment

To earn a B requires satisfactory performance on the previous items plus satisfactory

**SHORT EXERCISES** Concept paper (1/2 page)  
Observation paper (2-3 pages)  
Second oral report (5-10 minutes) on any aspect of this course  
Library research (3-5 pages)

To earn an A requires satisfactory completion of the above PLUS a

**TERM PAPER** on a topic relevant to THIS course (6-10 pages)

Four **ADDITIONAL PREREQUISITES** must be met before you qualify for writing the term paper - see the next page:

1. PASS the midterm exam with a rating of GOOD\*

2. AVOID MISTAKES in your Short Observation and Library Research reports:

Incomplete sentences or run-on sentences

Subject and predicate disagreement

Apostrophes and commas incorrect

More than three (3) such mistakes will disqualify you from writing the term paper.

3. INTERVIEW someone about popular culture. Include direct quotes and your own introduction and conclusion. 2 pages.

4. PROPOSAL for term paper. Submit 50 - 100 word proposal one month before the term paper is due. It must have a title, sources of your information, and a brief outline of your proposed paper, with at least four section headings.

Check your term paper carefully before you hand it in. If it has more than three mistakes it will not be accepted.

All written assignments must be typed, and pages numbered

SUBSTITUTIONS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE. You cannot, for example, miss three classes, then do a term paper and get a B.

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\* The midterm examination will be graded GOOD, PASS, or FAIL. GOOD is needed to qualify for doing the term paper for an A in the course. With a PASS you may be eligible for a B, but NOT an A.

\*\* ATTENDANCE is essential. Activities and information in the classes are crucial to the course. The class meets only once a week. You must get here EVERY week, on time, and stay for the whole period. If you cannot do this, regardless of the reason (work, car pool, sports practice, appointments, etc.) do not take this course. More than two absences will lower your grade.

\*\*\* ATTENTION Whispering to a friend while someone is addressing the class is rude, distracts other people, and disturbs your own attention -- Don't do it; it may hurt your grade!

If your whispering or other symptoms of inattention raise doubts as to how much you are absorbing in class, it may be necessary to administer traditional written examinations to evaluate your educational progress.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ANY OF THESE REQUIREMENTS MAY RESULT IN LOWERING YOUR COURSE GRADE

Competition in the Real World beyond the campus is increasingly rough. Prepare yourself NOW by developing good work habits. Practice your survival skills by reading assignment requirements carefully, planning ahead, paying attention to details, and checking your work thoroughly before handing it in.