

**CULT 500**  
**Core Issues in Cultural Studies**  
**Fall 2020**

**Wednesday 4:40-7:30 pm**

**Sibel Irzık**

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**office hours (online): Tuesday, 11:00-12:30 pm or by appointment**

This course introduces the students to the theoretical frameworks of graduate study in Cultural Studies by focusing on the debates around the definitions and uses of the concept of culture as well as on such specific issues as orientalism/occidentalism, cultural constructions and contestations of gender and sexuality, media and popular culture, and the changing configurations of private and public spheres. It combines the overview of the major theoretical and methodological approaches in the field of cultural politics and criticism with a critical discussion of various applications of these approaches in specific social, political, and historical contexts.

***Requirements and Grading:***

***Attendance and participation: (15%)*** Attendance is required and class participation will play a major role in the success of the course, as well as in your grades. Classes will be held online synchronously. Please be sure to maintain video connection throughout class.

***Response Papers: (35%)*** For a total of 5 weeks, you are asked to submit a three-page, double spaced response paper on SUCourse by 10:00 am on Wednesday. The response paper should discuss (not summarize) all the readings of that week, making connections between them, discussing strengths and weaknesses, asking questions and raising criticisms.

***Class presentation: (15%)*** You will be asked to do one class presentation which discusses selected course readings in connection with a concrete “case” (a political debate, a social movement, an NGO, a museum, a memorial site, an art project, popular culture icons, an online site, a literary book, etc.). Analyze your “case” using the concepts, theories, tools introduced in the readings and generate questions for discussion.

***Final Paper (35%)*** You are expected to submit a (double spaced) 10-12 page analytical paper on a topic related to this course, drawing on the semester’s readings and class discussions.

***Academic Integrity:*** Be sure to familiarize yourself with the university’s policy on plagiarism and academic integrity:

[http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/eng/?genel\\_bilgi/felsefemiz/akademikdurustlukilkeleri.html](http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/eng/?genel_bilgi/felsefemiz/akademikdurustlukilkeleri.html)

Course content, requirements and policies are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

## Course Schedule

### October 7 Introduction

- Raymond Williams, "Culture" in *Keywords*, Flamingo, London, 1983, pp. 87-93.
- Tony Bennett, 2005, "Culture" *The New Keywords*, edited by Tony Bennett, Lawrence Grossberg and Meaghan Morris, Blackwell, 63-69.

### October 14 Culture

- Terry Eagleton, *The Idea of Culture*, Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2005, 1-50.
- Jonathan Culler, "Langue and Parole" and "Semiotics: The Saussurian Legacy" in *Saussure*, Ithaca: Cornell Univ. P., 1986, pp. 39-45, 105-150.

### October 21 Cultural Studies

- Stuart Hall, "Encoding/Decoding" in *Culture, Media, Language*, eds. Stuart Hall, et. al., London: Routledge, 1980, 128-138.
- Stuart Hall, "Cultural Studies and Its Theoretical Legacies" in *The Cultural Studies Reader*, ed. Simon During, London: Routledge, 2001 [1993], pp.97-109.
- Lila Abu-Lughod, "Writing Against Culture" in *Recapturing Anthropology: Working in the Present*, ed. Richard G. Fox, New Mexico: School of American Research Press, 1991, 137-162.

### October 28 Holiday

### November 4 Ideology

- Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, "Manifesto of the Communist Party" in *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844 and the Communist Manifesto*, Buffalo, NY: Prometheus Books, 203-243
- Antonio Gramsci, "Intellectuals" in *The Gramsci Reader: Selected Writings 1916-1935*, David Forgacs, ed., New York: New York Univ. P., 2000, 300-311.
- Gavin Smith, "Hegemony" in *A Companion to the Anthropology of Politics*, edited by David Nugent and Joan Vincent, Oxford: Blackwell, 2007, 216-230.

### November 11 Ideology

- Louis Althusser, "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses" in *Mapping Ideology*, Slavoj Zizek, ed., London and New York: Verso, 1994, pp.100-140.

- Pierre Bourdieu and Terry Eagleton, “Doxa and Common Life: An Interview” in *Mapping Ideology* (Ed. Slavoj Zizek), Verso, London, 1994, pp. 265-277.

### **November 18            Ideology in Art and Literature**

- Stephen Greenblatt, “Murdering Peasants: Status, Genre, and the Representation of Rebellion,” in *Learning to Curse*, N.Y. & London: Routledge Classics, 2007, 132-75.
- Terry Gilliam, dir., *Brazil* (1985)
- Jean-Pierre Dardenne and Luc Dardenne, dirs., *Rosetta* (1999)

### **November 25            Subjectivity**

- Sigmund Freud, *An Outline of Psycho-Analysis*, trans. James Strachey, New York & London: Norton, 1989, 13-46.
- Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents*, trans. James Strachey, New York & London: Norton, 1989.

### **December 2             Subjectivity**

- Jacques Lacan, “The Mirror Stage as Formative of the Function of the I” in *Écrits: A Selection*, trans. Alan Sheridan, New York & London: Norton, 1977, 1-7.
- Foucault, “The Subject and Power,” *Critical Inquiry* 8/4 (1982): 777-795.
- Biehl, Good & Kleinman, “Introduction: Rethinking Subjectivity,” in Biehl, Good & Kleinman, eds., *Subjectivity: Ethnographic Investigations*, Berkeley: Univ. of California P, 2007, 1-24.

### **December 9             Subjectivity in Art and Literature**

- Gabriele Schwab, “Ethnographies of the Future: Personhood, Agency, & Power in Octavia Butler's *Xenogenesis*,” in *Imaginary Ethnographies: Literature, Culture, & Subjectivity*, New York: Columbia U. P., 2012, 134-56.
- Werner Herzog, *The Enigma of Kaspar Hauser* (1974)
- Octavia Butler, *Dawn*

### **December 16            Aesthetics**

- Walter Benjamin, “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction” in *Illuminations*, trans. Harry Zohn, New York: Schocken Books, 1985, 217-52.
- Max Horkheimer and Theodor Adorno, “The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception” in *The Dialectic of Enlightenment*, trans. John Cumming, New York: Continuum, 1972, 120-67.

### **December 23            Aesthetics**

- Fredric Jameson, “The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism,” in *Postmodernism: or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism*, Durham: Duke Univ. P., 1992, 1-54.
- Hal Foster, “Death in America,” *October*, Vol. 75. (Winter, 1996), 36-59.
- Ridley Scott, *Blade Runner* (1982)

**December 30**

**“Doing Cultural Studies”: Case Studies and Presentations**

**Jan 6**

**“Doing Cultural Studies”: Case Studies and Presentations**