

Sabancı University
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
CULT 501: Core Works in Cultural Studies
Spring 2021

Mondays 4:40 - 7:30 p.m.
Zoom link: <https://sabanciuniv.zoom.us/j/95840914105>

Instructor: Ateş Altınordu (FASS 2083, ext. 9283, atesaltinordu@sabanciuniv.edu; meeting by appointment)

Course description: This course is designed to broaden and deepen students' knowledge of cultural theories and their empirical applications through a sustained engagement with a selection of major works in cultural studies. Readings will focus on the relationship of culture to social class, gender, religion, collective memory, emotions, and social movements.

Requirements: Students are expected to complete the assigned readings before class and actively participate in class discussions. The course requirements include an in-class presentation (~25 minutes) and a final exam (14-16 pages to be completed outside of class, due June 4). The presentation should briefly summarize the most important points from the readings and conclude with two critical questions for discussion. We will discuss final exam topics on Week 11 (May 3).

Evaluation: The course grade will be composed of class participation (20%), the presentation (20%), and the final exam (60%). Late submission of final exams is allowed up to five days after the deadline and will be subject to a 3-point (out of 100) reduction for each day late.

Letter grades will be calculated according to the following scale:

93-100	A	83-86	B -	73-76	C	60-66	D
90-92	A-	80-82	B	70-72	C-	0-59	F
87-89	B+	77-79	C+	67-69	D+		

Attendance Policy: Students who miss more than five class meetings without official excuses will receive N/A as their course grade. Only (1) a report from the University Health Center or (2) a permission note from the university administration for participation at a university event *for the date of the class in question* count as official excuses. Those who enter class more than 20 minutes after its start will be considered absent on that date. *Please do not ask for exceptions.*

Academic integrity: Cases of plagiarism, cheating, and fraud will result in an F for the course grade and will be referred to the relevant Faculty Dean for potential disciplinary action. For Sabancı University's Academic Integrity Statement, see <https://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/academic-integrity-statement> (ENG) or <https://www.sabanciuniv.edu/tr/akademik-durustluk> (TR).

Readings: All books can be purchased at Homer Kitabevi located at the University Center. Books by Alexander and Hochschild can be accessed as ebooks free of charge on the SU Information Center website. You can find pdf versions of the readings under Resources at SuCourse+.

Week 1 | Introduction to the Course | February 22

- Sewell, Jr., William H. 2005. "The Concept(s) of Culture." Pp. 152-174 in *Logics of History: Social Theory and Social Transformation*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Week 2 | Geertz: Structures of Meaning I | March 1

- Geertz, Clifford. 1973. *The Interpretation of Cultures*. New York: Basic Books. Pp. 3-30, 87-141. ("Thick Description: Toward An Interpretive Theory of Culture", "Religion as a Cultural System", "Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight").

Week 3 | Bourdieu: Culture and Social Inequality I | March 8

- Bourdieu, Pierre. 1984. *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. Pp. 1-225.

Week 4 | Bourdieu: Culture and Social Inequality II | March 15

- Bourdieu, Pierre. *Distinction*. Pp. 226-396, 466-484.

Week 5 | Alexander: The Strong Program in Cultural Sociology | March 22

- Alexander, Jeffrey C. 2003. *The Meanings of Social Life: A Cultural Sociology*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press. Pp. 3-26, 121-154. (“Introduction”, “The Strong Program in Cultural Sociology: Elements of a Structural Hermeneutics”, “The Discourse of American Civil Society”)
- Alexander, Jeffrey C. 2004. “Cultural Pragmatics: Social Performance between Ritual and Strategy.” *Sociological Theory* 22 (4): 527-573.

Week 6 | Alexander: Cultural Trauma | March 29

- Alexander, Jeffrey C. *The Meanings of Social Life*. Pp. 27-108. (“On the Social Construction of Moral Universals: The ‘Holocaust’ from War Crime to Trauma Drama”, “Cultural Trauma and Collective Identity”).

Week 7 | Swidler: Culture as Repertoire I | April 5

- Swidler, Ann. 2003. *Talk of Love: How Culture Matters*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Pp. 1-110.

Week 8 | Swidler: Culture as Repertoire II | April 12

- Swidler, Ann. *Talk of Love*. Pp. 111-236.

Week 9 | Hochschild: Culture and Emotions I | April 19

- Hochschild, Arlie Russell. 2012. *The Managed Heart: Commercialization of Human Feeling*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press. ix-xviii, 3-88.

Week 10 | Hochschild: Culture and Emotions II | April 26

- Hochschild, Arlie Russell. *The Managed Heart*. 89-207.

Week 11 | Presentation of Paper Topics | May 3

**** Holiday Break | May 10-14 ****

Week 12 | Polletta: Culture and Social Movements I | May 17

- Polletta, Francesca. 2006. *It Was Like a Fever: Storytelling in Protest and Politics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Pp. vii-xiv, 1-81.

Week 13 | Polletta: Culture and Social Movements II | May 24

- Polletta, Francesca. 2006. *It Was Like a Fever: Storytelling in Protest and Politics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 82-187.

**** Final Exam Due | June 4 (Friday) ****