

Youth Culture
CULT 322/522
Summer 2021 – Sabancı University

Class meetings: Tuesdays and Thursdays | 13.40 – 16.30 (online)

Instructor: Sonay Ban, Ph.D.

E-mail: sonay.ban@sabanciuniv.edu

Office Hours: By appointment (online)

Teaching Assistant: Ashı Aygünes – aaygunes@sabanciuniv.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course aims to examine the concept and experience of “youth cultures” through the lenses of the historical construction of youth, race, gender, neoliberalism, religion, resistance, and activism in Turkey and other parts of the world. The main objective of the course is to familiarize students with different youth experiences taking place around the world as part of identity politics in light of theoretical discussions, academic and non-academic articles, social media examinations, video clips, news reports, and fiction and non-fiction films. It attempts to look at the current debates through the lenses of anthropology on the experiences of people in a multifaceted and interdisciplinary approach.

Required Readings: All readings (articles, book chapters, news articles) and audiovisual materials will be available on SUCourse. Additional materials will be posted on SUCourse and e-mailed.

Policies:

Zoom Rules: The class will be held synchronously on Zoom. Prior to each meeting, you will receive a Zoom link via e-mail. Since most of the learning will be based on active discussions that require interactivity, I kindly ask everyone to put their videos on and be active listeners and participants during the meetings.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Attendance and Participation (15%):

You are expected to attend all meetings, do the required readings, watch the audiovisual materials, prepare the assignments on time, and be active participants in class discussions. I will take attendance on Zoom. Any unexcused absence (except informed-before-the-meeting ones) and tardiness will be reflected on your grade.

3 Reflection Papers (3 x 10%):

For **Weeks 2, 3, and 5**, you will submit a response paper (minimum 500 words for undergraduate students; 700 words for graduate students) to the assigned readings and audiovisual materials. You will read the materials, watch the videos or films if assigned, and write a response paper before our meetings and submit by the due date in the given week (check the due date for each week). Please provide a title for your paper. **You need to upload the response papers for each week on SUCourse before we meet.**

Final Paper Proposal (15%):

Submitted by **Week 4 – 1-page maximum**. More instructions will be provided via email and on SUCourse and you will receive feedback before starting your final paper.

Final Paper (40%):

At the end of the semester, you will write a **4-5-page research paper (for undergraduate students; and 7-8-page for graduate students)** on a topic you propose by **Week 4**. You can choose to write about any topic relevant to the course material, including the recommended books, movies, or videos. More instructions will be provided throughout the semester via e-mail, and they will be posted on SUCourse.

Late Assignments: They will be **marked down 10% per day late, up to 3 days, after which they will NOT be accepted except in extreme, documented circumstances**. Acceptable excuses include family emergencies and health issues. These will require documentation as soon as possible, preferably before the assignment(s) is/are missed, but a maximum of one week after a missed assignment to be excused. Please manage your time according to course requirements and turn your assignments in on time. There is no make-up work at the end of the semester for the previous weeks' works.

Academic Principles: Please make sure to carefully review all the university policies accessible through the following link: <https://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/statement-academic-freedom>

Disability Statement: This course is open to all students who meet the academic requirements for participation. Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible. Please contact “Student with Special Needs Support Unit” to coordinate reasonable accommodations: <https://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/student-special-needs-support-unit-ssn>

COURSE SCHEDULE

NOTE: **This is a work-in-progress syllabus**. It means that **the course schedule is subject to modification throughout the semester when necessary**. You will receive notification regarding changes in date or assignments via e-mail or through SUCourse. Therefore, checking your e-mails frequently and reaching out to me if you have questions are good ways to go.

Week 1 (July 1st) – Introductory Remarks

- Introductions – Explaining the syllabus and course objectives
- **Students should email a 1-paragraph bio presenting themselves, including their majors, why they take this course, and what they think they will get out of it at the end of the semester by the end of Week 1**

Readings and Audiovisual Materials:

- Lecture – Introduction to Anthropology
- Horace Miner. “Body Ritual Among the Nacirema.”

- **Watch before our meeting:** *Las Hurdes (Land without Bread*, Luis Buñuel, 1932, 28')

Week 2 (July 6&8) – Historical Construction of Youth – Construction of Modernity?

Response Paper #1 due July 6

!! Add-Drop week !!

July 6

- Margaret Mead. 1928. *Coming of Age in Samoa*. (Selected book sections)
- **Watch before our meeting:** *Moana* (Robert Flaherty, 1926, 92')
- Michelle Alexander. 2011. "Introduction" and "The Rebirth of Caste." *The New Jim Crow*. p.1-19&20-58.
- Lecture on 1968 riots/resistance around the world and the Civil Rights Movements in the U.S.
- Sean O'Hagan. 2008. "Everyone to the barricades." *The Guardian*.
- **Watch before our meeting:** *Eyes on the Prize: Awakenings (1954-1956)* (PBS, 1987, 49')
1968 Columbia University Protests (47')

July 8

- Pierre Bourdieu, 1993. "'Youth' is Just a Word." *Sociology in Question*. pp. 94-102.
- Leyla Neyzi. 2001. "Object or Subject? The Paradox of 'Youth' in Turkey." *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* 33.
- Podcast: Yahya Araz, "Osmanlı Toplumunda Çocukluk." (not required for non-Turkish speakers)
- Podcast: Yasemin Gencer, "Child and Nation in Early Republican Turkey."
- **Watch before our meeting:** *Sonbahar* (Özcan Alper, 2008, 102')

Recommended films:

The Dreamers (Bernardo Bertolucci, 2003)

Selma (Ava DuVernay, 2014)

13th (Ava DuVernay, 2016)

Malcolm X (Spike Lee, 1992)

The Black Panthers Vanguard of the Revolution (Stanley Nelson, 2015)

Tout va bien (Jean-Luc Godard, 1972)

Baboş (Kazim Öz, 2008)

Week 3 (July 13) – Urban Youth and Neoliberalism – Framing Space, "Violence," and "Threat"

Response Paper #2 due July 13

July 15 – NO CLASS

- Catherine Kingfisher and Jeff Maskovsky. 2008. "The Limits of Neoliberalism." *Critique of Anthropology*.
- Loïc Wacquant. 2007. "Territorial Stigmatization in the Age of Advanced Marginality."
- Andrew Hussey. "La Haine 20 years on: what has changed?" *The Guardian*.

- Deniz Yonucu. 2018. “Urban Vigilantism: A Study of Anti-Terror Law, Politics and Policing in Istanbul.” *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*.
(Complementary) Deniz Yonucu. 2014. “Bir Yönetim Biçimi Olarak Mekânsal Ayrıştırma: Tehlikeli Mahalleler, Olağanüstü Hal ve Militarist Sınır Çizimi.” *Yeni İstanbul Çalışmaları*. (not required for non-Turkish speakers)
- Henri A. Giroux. “Neoliberal Politics as Failed Sociality: Youth and the Crisis of Higher Education.” *Logos Journal*.
- Henri A. Giroux. 2014. “Neoliberalism, Youth & Social Justice.” *TruthOut.org*
- Carol Stack. 2001. “Coming of Age in Oakland.” *The New Poverty Studies*.
- **Watch before our meeting:** *La Haine* (Matthieu Kassovitz, 1995, 98’)

Recommended Film:

Abluka (Emin Alper, 2015, 119’)

July 20 – 23 Kurban Bayramı – Official Holiday (NO CLASS)

Week 4 (July 27&29) – Race / Ethnicity / Class / Gender

Final Paper Proposal due July 30

July 27

- Excerpts from *The Huey Newton Reader*
- Lecture on the bombing of MOVE in Philadelphia, PA, USA in 1972
- **Watch before our meeting:** *Let the Fire Burn* (David Osder, 2013, 95’)
- Alice Goffman. 2009. “On the Run: Wanted Men in a Philadelphia Ghetto.” *American Sociological Review*. Vol. 74 (June: 339-357)

July 29

- Ghassan Hage. 2003. “‘Comes a Time We Are All Enthusiasm?’ Understanding Palestinian Suicide Bombers in Times of Exiphobia.”
- Emily McKee. 2018. “Environmental Framing and Its Limits: Campaigns in Palestine and Israel.” *International Journal of Middle East Studies*.
- Haydar Darıcı. 2013. “‘Adults See Politics as a Game’: Politics of Kurdish Children in Urban Turkey.” *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 45: 775-790.
- Nicola de Martini Ugulotti and Eileen Moyer. 2016. “If I climb a wall of ten meters:’ capoeira, parkour and the politics of public space among (post)migrant youth in Turin, Italy.” *Patterns of Prejudice*.
- Lila Abu-Lughod. 2016. “The cross-publics of ethnography: The case of ‘the Muslimwoman.’” *American Ethnologist*.
- **Watch before our meeting:** *Bîra Mi’rêtin* (*Hatırlıyorum*, Selim Yıldız, 2015, 38’)

Recommended films:

Paradise Now (Hany Abu-Assad, 2005)

5 Broken Cameras (Emad Burnat, Guy Davidi, 2011)
Do the Right Thing (Spike Lee, 1989)

Week 5 (August 3&5) – Youth and Activism & Subcultures in Youth Communities

Response Paper #3 due August 3

August 3

Occupy Wall Street

- David Graeber. 2011. “Occupy Wall Street’s anarchist roots.”
- Henri A. Giroux. 2013. “Countermemory and the Politics of Loss after 9/11: Violence, the War on Youth, and the Limits of the Social.” *Youth in Revolt: Reclaiming a Democratic Future*.
Recommended: Henri A. Giroux. 2013. “The Occupy Movement and the Politics of Educated Hope.” *America’s Education Deficit and the War on Youth: Reform Beyond Electoral Politics*.

Arab Spring

- Koenraad Bogaert. 2011. “Global Dimensions of the Arab Spring and the Potential for Anti-Hegemonic Politics”, published on December 21, 2011.
- Nashaat Hussein. 2015. “Civil committees during the January Revolution in Egypt: Youth safeguarding their neighbourhood.” *Crime Prevention and Community Safety*.
- Anna Dowell. 2015. “Landscapes of Belonging: Protestant Activism in Revolutionary Egypt.” *International Journal of Sociology*.
- **Watch before our meeting: TBA**

August 5

Black Lives Matter #BLM

- Mumia Abu-Jamal. “To Protect and Serve Whom?” *Have Black Lives Ever Mattered?*
- Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor. 2016. “From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation.” From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation
- **Screenings** – News videos

Gezi Resistance

- Cihan Tuğal. 2013. “‘Resistance Everywhere:’ The Gezi Revolt in Global Perspective.” *New Perspectives on Turkey*.
- Erdem Yörük. 2014. “The Long Summer of Turkey: The Gezi Uprising and Its Historical Roots.” *South Atlantic Quarterly*.
- Noah Fischer. 2013. “Where is Occupy Now? Answer: Turkey.”
- **Watch before our meeting:** *Yeryüzü Aşkın Yüzü Oluncaya Dek* (Reyan Tuvi, 2013, 105’)

Hip-hop

- Andrea Clay. “All I need is one mic.”
- Jenna Krajeski. “Turkey: Tahribad-ı İsyân’s Rap Rebellion.” Pulitzercenter.org
- **Watch before our meeting:** *Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes* (Byron Hurt, 2006)

- **Watch before our meeting:** Public Enemy – *Fight the Power*
Keny Arkana – *La Rage*
Tahribad-ı İsyân feat. Fuat Ergin – *Wonderland*
D.A.M Palestine – *I don't have freedom*

Week 6 (August 10&12) – Youth and (Digital/Social) Media

- Yarimar Bonilla and Jonathan Rosa. 2015. “#Ferguson: Digital protest, hashtag ethnography, and the racial politics of social media in the United States.”
- Sohail Dahdal. 2019. “Cultural educating of Palestinian youth through collaborative digital storytelling.” *E-Learning and Digital Media*.
- Annamária Neag and Markéta Supa. 2020. “Emotional practices of unaccompanied refugee youth on social media.” *International Journal of Cultural Studies*.
- Summer Harlow. 2016. “Reconfiguring and Remediating Social Media as Alternative Media: Exploring Youth Activists’ Digital Media Ecology in El Salvador.” *Palabra Clave*.
- Yasmin Moll. 2018. “Television is Not Radio: Theologies of Mediation in the Egyptian Islamic Revival.” *Cultural Anthropology*.
- Jeffrey S. Juris. 2016. “Reflections on #Occupy Everywhere: Social Media, Public Space, and Emerging Logics of Aggregation.” *Youth, Space, and Time: Agoras and Chronotopes in the Global City*.
- Videos and films **TBA**

Overview on August 17&19

Final Paper due August 22 by 11.59 PM via email