"Those people I've been talking about today -- the poor -- they're not 'those people,' they're not 'them.' They're us. They're you. They dream as you dream. They value what you value. There is no them, only us. The American anthem is not exceptionalism, it's universalism. 'I am because we are'." – Bono at Georgetown University, 2012

It is interesting that many women do not recognize themselves as discriminated against; no better proof could be found of the totality of their conditioning.
Kate Millett, Sexual Politics

The hurt becomes repetition, the love almost lost that
Sick venom in men and women overcome with pride
A perfect world is never perfect, only filled with lies
Promises are broken and more resentment come alive
Race barriers make inferior you and I
"Pride" - Kendrick Lamar

"...what is at stake here is the possibility that Cultural Studies could promote in students, not a striving after a predetermined or a once and-for-all complacent accession to a given set of cultural values, but rather a continual analysis of their own conditions of existence. Such a praxis, founded in an overthrowing of the preassumptions of traditional disciplinary approaches to culture, is a pre-requisite for self-conscious and effective resistance to dominant structures.
"The Need for Cultural Studies" - Henry Giroux, David Shumway, Paul Smith, and James Sosnoski

ENGL 265
Introduction to Cultural Studies

Spring 2023
Georgetown University
Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30 – 4:45 pm
Car Barn 301

Instructor: Ellen Gorman - elg27@georgetown.edu
Available Hours: Thursdays 2:00 – 3:00 pm and by appointment

Required Texts
A Critical and Cultural Theory Reader, Anthony Easthope and Kate McGowan (second edition)
Loaded: A Disarming History of the Second Amendment, Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (pdf in Canvas)
Tales of Two Americas, John Freeman (pdf in Canvas)
Dying of Whiteness, Jonathan M. Metzl (pdf in Canvas)

Films/Video (Sharestream/Canvas or Online):
Fruitvale Station (2013); American Factory (2019/Netflix); Do Not Resist (2016); She's Beautiful When She's Angry (2014)

Course Description:
This course will focus on a history and examination of the set of theories, practices and methodologies that define the field of Cultural Studies. By reading and situating the theory, we can critique the production and consumption of cultural objects, including popular culture and avant-garde art. To pursue critical analyses of our own in the class, we will interrogate concepts such as culture, ideology, representation, taste, style, and subculture, with attention to the specific tensions between language and visual images. Texts will draw from critical and cultural theory, literature, film, video, music, and the graphic novel, with a particular emphasis on contemporary artistic modes of expression.
The overall frame around any of our inquiries in this course is the development of critical thinking and writing skills.

**List of assignments and percentage of grade**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Response Papers (12 @ 5% each)</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Researched Argument</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board/Online</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion/Participation/Attendance</td>
<td>15%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Grading**

All assignments are to be posted to the Canvas site for the course on the due date and time (EST). Assignments submitted after the deadline will be dropped 10 points; assignments submitted 24 hours late will be dropped 20 points. A grade of “No Credit” or 0 points will be given for assignments submitted later than 24 hours late.

Sustained participation in the course via these assignments is integral to the course – unless there is a documented reason (medical/family emergency) for non-submission, no exemptions will be offered.

All students are encouraged to avail themselves of the free services at the University’s Writing Center: http://www.georgetown.edu/departments/english/writing/wcenter.html.

**Discussion/Participation/Device Usage**

The English Department stipulates no more than three excused absences per semester. Your participation in class discussions is an essential element of the course. Please keep both in mind and the impact non-participation will have on your grade.

Please also keep in mind that this is a discussion-based seminar and there are no quizzes or tests; therefore, there is no need to take notes/use a laptop or other device in class (without official accommodation).

Use of phones in class is prohibited; phone usage will result in grade deduction (from the participation segment of the grade total).

**University Policies**

All Georgetown University policies, as stated in the Undergraduate Bulletin, will be observed: http://www.georgetown.edu/undergrad/bulletin/.

All students are required to be aware of the University’s Honor Code regulations: http://www.georgetown.edu/undergrad/bulletin/regulations6.html#standards.

If you believe that you have a disability that will affect your performance in this class, please contact the Academic Resource Center (http://academicsupport.georgetown.edu/) for further information. The center is located in the Leavey Center, Suite 335. The Academic Resource Center is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students with disabilities and for determining reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and University policies.

Georgetown University and its faculty are committed to supporting survivors of sexual misconduct, including relationship violence, sexual harassment, and sexual assault. University policy requires faculty members to report any disclosures about sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator, whose role is to coordinate the University’s response to sexual misconduct. Georgetown has a number of fully confidential professional resources who can provide support and assistance to survivors of sexual assault and other forms of sexual misconduct.

These resources include Jen Schweer, MA, LPC, Associate Director of Health Education Services for Sexual Assault Response and Prevention, (202) 687-0323 (jls242@georgetown.edu) and Erica Shirley, Trauma Specialist Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS), (202) 687-6985 (els54@georgetown.edu).

More information about campus resources and reporting sexual misconduct can be found at http://sexualassault.georgetown.edu.

**Sensitive Material**

At times this semester we will be discussing events and issues that may be disturbing, even traumatizing, to some students. If you ever feel the need to withdraw from reading, listening to or viewing a specific text, please feel free to do so. Also be in touch with me so that we may find a substitute for you to engage with that is more suitable.
SCHEDULE

January 12  Introduction to course

January 17  Please be prepared to discuss:

January 19  Please be prepared to discuss:

Cultural Studies – “the arena of consent and resistance”

January 22  Response 1 Due on Canvas by 10:00 pm
- Read: “Stuart Hall and the Rise of Cultural Studies” – Hua Hsu, TheNewYorker.com
- Read: Michel Foucault, from Discipline and Punish (Theory Reader)
- Read: Michel Foucault, from The History of Sexuality (Theory Reader)

January 24  Discussion of response 1 materials

January 26  Discussion of response 1 materials

“The language of conflict”

January 29  Response 2 Due on Canvas by 10:00 pm
- Read: F.R. Leavis, “Mass Civilisation and Minority Culture”
- Read: Raymond Williams, from Culture and Society
- Watch: “A Message from Tyler” – Tyler Childers, YouTube, September 18, 2020

January 31  Discussion of response 2 materials

February 2  Discussion of response 2 materials

February 5  Response 3 Due on Canvas by 10:00 pm

February 7  Discussion of Response 3 material

February 9  Discussion of Response 3 material

Power/Class

February 12  Response 4 Due on Canvas by 10:00 pm
- Read: Karl Marx, ‘Preface,’ A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy (Theory Reader)
- Read: Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, from The German Ideology (Theory Reader)
- Read: Roland Barthes, “Wine and Milk” from Mythologies (1957)
- Read: “We Are (Still) the 99 percent” – Emily Stewart, Occupy.com, May 2, 2019.
February 14   Discussion of Response 4 materials

February 16   Discussion of Response 4 materials

February 19   Response 5 Due on Canvas by 10:00 pm

- Read: Choose four texts to read from Tales of Two Americas (respond to each in Response 5)
- Check out: “Major Social Safety Net Programs in the US” – UC-Davis: Poverty.ucdavis.edu
- Watch: American Factory (Netflix)

February 21   No Class/Monday Schedule

February 23   Discussion of Response 5 materials

Power/Gender

February 26   Response 6 Due on Canvas by 10:00 pm

- Read: Laura Mulvey, from Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema (Theory Reader)
- Read: Simone de Beauvoir, Introduction to The Second Sex (Theory Reader)
- Read: Vox Explainer: “The waves of feminism, and why people keep fighting over them” – Constance Grady, Vox.com
- Watch Documentary: She's Beautiful When She's Angry – Mary Dore, September 17, 2018, YouTube or Tubi.com

February 28   Discussion of Response 6 materials

March 2   Discussion of Response 6 materials

March 7 and 9   No Classes/Spring Break

March 12   Response 7 Due on Canvas by 10:00 pm

- Read: “How do patriarchy and capitalism jointly reinforce the oppression of women?” – Camille Bruneau, CADTM.org, September 13, 2018.
- Read: “Why Terrorism Misses the Mark When it Comes to Incels” - Eviane Leidig, ICCT, 31 August 2021.

March 14   Discussion of Response 7 materials

March 16   Discussion of Response 7 materials

Power/Race
March 19

- **Response 8 Due on Canvas by 10:00 pm**
- Read: Frantz Fanon, from *Black Skin, White Masks* (*Theory Reader*)
- Read: Homi K. Bhabha, from “The ‘Other’ Question” (*Theory Reader*)
- Watch: “Malcolm X’s Fiery Speech Addressing Police Brutality” – 1962, SmithsonianChannel.com (YouTube)
- Watch video/read lyrics at Genius.com: “The Bigger Picture” – Lil Baby (YouTube)
- Watch video/read lyrics at Genius.com: “Land of the Free” - Joey Bada$$ (YouTube)
- Read: “Confederate Monuments” – Karen L Cox, from *Myth America: Historians Take on the Biggest Legends and Lies About Our Past*
- Read: “Rumors of War” in Richmond Marks a Monumentally Unequal America” - Susan Stamberg, NPR.org
- Read: Excerpt from *The Myth and Propaganda of Black Buying Power* – Black Power Media
- Screen: *Fruitvale Station* (Sharestream)

March 21

Discussion of Response 8 materials

March 23

Visit from Dr. Jared Ball, Morgan State University, author of *Myth of Black Buying Power*

March 26

- **Response 9 Due on Canvas by 10:00 pm**
- Read: “This is what community looks like”: Student activists receive university response to hate crime, ending sit-in” – The Georgetown Voice, Franzi Wild, Nora Scully and Annabella Hoge, December 9, 2022.
- Read: Edward Said, excerpt from *Orientalism* (*Theory Reader*)
- Read: “The ‘Whitening’ of Asian Americans” – Iris Kuo, TheAtlantic.com
- Read/look at: "Corky Lee’s Photographs Helped Generations of Asian Americans See Themselves" - Hua Hsu, TheNewYorker.com
- Read: “Affirmative action appears in jeopardy after marathon arguments” – Amy Howe, Scotus.blog, October 31, 2022.

March 28

Discussion of Response 9 materials

March 30

Discussion of Response 9 materials

April 2

- **Response 10 Due on Canvas by 10:00 pm**
- Read all of *Dying of Whiteness*
  See specific criteria for response in assignment

April 4

No Class/Discussion Board on Canvas

April 6

No Class/Easter Break

April 11

Discussion of Response 10 materials

April 13

Discussion of Response 10 materials

**Power/Fear/Violence**

April 16

- Read: Jean Baudrillard, from *Simulations* (*Theory Reader*)
- Check out: “Hate Crimes, Explained” – Southern Poverty Law Center and Hate Map, SPLC.org
- Read/check out: “The Military, Police, and the Rise of Terrorism in the United States” – Seth Jones and Catrina Doxsee,
Center for Strategic and International Studies, April 12, 2021.

- Screen: Do Not Resist (Sharestream)

April 18
Discussion of Response 11 materials

April 20
Discussion of Response 11 materials

April 23
Response 12 Due on Canvas by 10:00 pm

- Read all of: Loaded, Roxane Dunbar-Ortiz
- Check out site: “The Economic Cost of Gun Violence in America” – EverytownforResearch.org
- Listen to podcast: “School Gun Violence and Youth Mental Health” - Maya Rossin-Slater, Stanford Medicine, Soundcloud.com/Stanford.med
- Read: “A Peace Plan for a Safer America” – MarchforOurLives.com
- Read text: House Bill H.R. 8, “Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019” – Congress.gov

April 25
Discussion of Response 12 materials

April 27
Discussion of Response 12 materials

May 2
Last class; discussion of Researched Argument sentences

May 7
Researched Argument due on Canvas by 10:00 pm