

# International Popular Culture

Summer 2018  
Sookmyung International Summer School  
Sookmyung Women's University

In-depth study of international and/or global aspects of everyday life and popular culture: consumer culture, mass media, entertainment, migration, technology, *etc.*

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## Student Learning Outcomes

Students successfully completing the course requirements will demonstrate:

### A - Critical Thinking:

Students will demonstrate the ability to gather, process, interpret, and evaluate information; to develop a plan to apply that information appropriate to a variety of situations, and to assess the appropriateness and relevance of its application.

#### A.1. Students effectively gather material relating to the topics of their research projects, using a variety of tools, sources and search strategies.

Students are asked to choose a culture and conduct a research project. They gather the information necessary for their projects from books, newspaper and magazine articles, websites as well as other on-line sources, *etc.*

#### A.2. Students explore the implications and consequences of their initial conclusions after data collection and use them to generate new ideas, questions and directions for further inquiry.

After gathering the information for the research project mentioned above, students must answer a set of questions and based on the answers draw a conclusion regarding the cultural significance of their topics. They are required to use the concepts learned in class, such as cultural myths, zeitgeists, and mindsets, in their assessment of cultural significance. The conclusion should be their original.

### B – Perspectives:

Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze and understand multiple historical and contemporary perspectives and cultural identities.

B.1. Students compare historical perspectives on the development of various cultures.

Students examine the historical development of a culture of their choice with regard to its relationship to American culture.

B.2. Students demonstrate how literature and the arts reflect and influence cultures.

The concept of a “Funhouse Mirror” states that “popular culture both reflects our image back to us but also alters our image in the process of doing so (Nachbar p. 7). Students learn popular art forms such as novels, movies, songs, and TV programs both reflect the mindsets and zeitgeists and influence them through the examination of popular heroes, stereotypes, and fiction formulas.

C - Other Student Learning Outcomes

After taking this course, students will appreciate a culture, including popular art and entertainment forms, different from their own.

### Requirements & Grading

#### ***Textbook:***

Nachbar, Jack, and Kevin Lause, eds. *Popular Culture: An Introductory Text*. Bowling Green, OH: Popular Press, 1992.

#### ***Readings:***

Your reading assignments are included in a reading schedule in the class schedule. These include reading in the textbook and occasionally reading material on other websites or articles. The reading is the main way that you will gain new information in the class and if you read everything carefully, you will learn far more. When you read, look at subheadings, bold words, photos, drawings, *etc.* first so that you get an idea of what the reading is about. If you can, come up with a few questions. Then read to find the answers to these questions. As you read, summarize each paragraph. These reading strategies will help you answer the test review questions (see below) and get a better grade on the test.

#### ***Quizzes:***

You are required to take 7 quizzes on the reading during the session. These tests have between 12 and 27 objective (multiple choice, true-false, matching) questions. The quizzes are timed and you will need to do the readings before the tests in order to perform well.

#### ***Class Reflection:***

You are asked to reflect on the lecture class you have just had before leaving the classroom.

#### ***Country Profile:***

You will be required to gather the vital information about the country of your choice.

***Elements of Culture Journals:***

You will be asked to find a cultural belief/value, an icon, a ritual, a popular hero, and a stereotype of the country of your choice. Specific instructions will be given later.

The final grade will be determined based on the following criteria:

-- 7 Quizzes	15%
-- Class Reflection	15%
-- Country Profile	10%
-- Elements of Culture	50%.
-- Class Participation	10%

Other Pertinent Information

***Plagiarism:***

“Copying or imitating the language, ideas, and thoughts of another author and passing off the same as one’s original work” is considered plagiarism. Any reference to published material must be properly documented. The use of someone else’s material without proper documentation is considered an act of plagiarism and will result in receiving zero (0) point value for the assignment and could result in a failing grade for the course. All of the following are examples of plagiarism:

- Quoting/using wording from a book, journal article, internet or other source verbatim (word-for-word) without putting the quote in quotation marks and citing it in an endnote or footnote;
- Paraphrasing another person’s unique ideas, theses, themes, research, *etc.* (published or unpublished) without giving credit in a footnote;
- Using another person’s tables, graphs, photographs, artwork, or illustrations without giving providing credit in a source reference;
- Using all or part of another student’s paper or presentation, even if that student approves;
- Using a paper or presentation from a free essay or presentation website or service;
- Buying a paper or presentation from an essay or presentation website or service.

Tentative Schedule

**Class 1 & 2: Introduction to the Course: What is Popular Culture?**

- Read “Getting to Know Us” (1 – 35), “Background and Development of an Idea”
- Class Reflection

**Class 3: Country Profile**

- Quiz 1
- Group Work

**Class 4: Myths, Beliefs and Values in Popular Culture**

- Read “Songs of the Unseen Road” (pp. 82-109)
- Class Reflection

**Class 5: Elements of Culture 1 – Beliefs and Values**

- Quiz 2
- Group Work

**Class 6: Objects of Special Meaning**

- Read “Living in the Material World” (pp. 169-185)
- Class Reflection

**Class 7: Elements of Culture 2 – Popular Icon**

- Quiz 3
- Group Work

**Class 8: Popular Rituals**

- Read “All Together Now” (pp. 376-386)
- Class Reflection

**Class 9: Elements of Culture 3 – Popular Ritual**

- Quiz 4
- Group Work

**Class 10: Popular Heroes**

- Read “Look Up in the Sky!” (pp. 314-343)
- Class Reflection

**Class 11: Elements of Culture 4 – Popular Hero**

- Quiz 5
- Group Work

**Class 12: The Meaning and Significance of Stereotypes**

- Read “Breaking the Mold” ( pp. 236-244)
- Class Reflection

**Class 13: Elements of Culture 5 – Stereotypes**

- Quiz 6
- Group Work

**Class 14: Formula in the Popular Arts**

- Read “Would You Repeat That – Please!” (pp. 414-429)
- Class Reflection

## **Class 15: Conclusion**

- Quiz 7