

 FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY	COURSE CHANGE REQUEST Undergraduate Programs	UUPC Approval <u>12/4/23</u> UFS Approval _____ SCNS Submittal _____ Confirmed _____ Banner Posted _____ Catalog _____
	Department Sociology College Arts and Letters	
Current Course Prefix and Number SYP 4610		Current Course Title Cultural Sociology
Syllabus must be attached for ANY changes to current course details. See <u>Template</u> . Please consult and list departments that may be affected by the changes; attach documentation.		
Change title to: Sociology of Culture Change prefix From: To: Change course number From: To: Change credits* From: To: Change grading From: To: Change WAC/Gordon Rule status** Add <input type="checkbox"/> Remove <input type="checkbox"/> Change General Education Requirements*** Add <input type="checkbox"/> Remove <input type="checkbox"/> <small>*See <u>Definition of a Credit Hour</u>.</small> <small>**WAC/Gordon Rule criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to this form. See <u>WAC Guidelines</u>.</small> <small>***GE criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to this form. See <u>Intellectual Foundations Guidelines</u>.</small>	Change description to: This course examines the influence of the mass media and culture industry on society, assessing how popular culture serves as an arena for political struggle. It also explores the role cultural beliefs and practices play in perpetuating social inequalities. Topics include the shaping of public consciousness by advertising, mass media, and social media; the use of popular culture and propaganda to consolidate political power; the significance of lifestyle choices in the acquisition of social status; and cultural conflicts surrounding religion, sexuality, collective memory, and social change. Change prerequisites/minimum grades to: Change corequisites to: Change registration controls to: <small>Please list existing and new pre/corequisites, specify AND or OR and include minimum passing grade (default is D-).</small>	
Effective Term/Year for Changes: Summer 2024		Terminate course? Effective Term/Year for Termination:
Faculty Contact/Email/Phone Philip Lewin / lewinp@fau.edu / (678) 770-8425		
Approved by Department Chair <u>Ann Branaman</u> College Curriculum Chair <u>Ed Hoge</u> College Dean _____ UUPC Chair <u>Korey Sorge</u> Undergraduate Studies Dean <u>Dan Meeroff</u> UFS President _____ Provost _____	Date _____ <u>11/6/23</u> _____ <u>11/13/23</u> _____ <u>11/14/23</u> _____ <u>12/4/23</u> _____ <u>12/4/23</u> _____ _____	

Email this form and syllabus to mjenning@fau.edu seven business days before the UUPC meeting.

SOCIOLOGY OF CULTURE
SYP 4610 / Spring 2025 / SCTN TBD / CRN TBD
Florida Atlantic University
Sociology Department

LOCATION:

Campus: Boca Raton

Classroom: Optional in-person sessions will meet in General Classroom South (GS), Rm. 103 on Tuesdays. All class sessions will also be live streamed via Zoom. Thursday classes will meet online.

Time: Tuesdays and Thursday, 12:30 – 1:50 pm

Credit Hours: 3.0 credits; this course counts toward the sociology major or minor

Prerequisites: SYG 1000 or SYD 3792; SYA 3010; SYA 3300.

CONTACT:

Instructor: Philip Lewin, Ph.D.

Office: Culture and Society Building, Rm. 260

Email: lewinp@fau.edu (this is the preferred method of contact)

Phone: 678-770-8425

Office Hours: Mondays 1:00 – 3:00 pm, Wednesdays and Thursday 2:00 – 4:00 pm, and by appointment.

Teaching Assistant: Frank Schioppa, B.A.

Office: Culture and Society Building, Rm. 253

Email: fschioppa2017@fau.edu

Class Website: <https://canvas.fau.edu/>

PROFESSOR'S OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the influence of the mass media and culture industry on society, assessing how popular culture serves as an arena for political struggle. It also explores the role cultural beliefs and practices play in perpetuating social inequalities. Topics include the shaping of public consciousness by advertising, mass media, and social media; the use of popular culture and propaganda to consolidate political power; the significance of lifestyle choices in the acquisition of social status; and cultural conflicts surrounding religion, sexuality, collective memory, and social change.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify the differences between social scientific and humanistic approaches to the study of culture.
- Understand major debates within cultural sociology in relation to the following topics: mass culture; ideology, legitimation, and hegemony; cultural capital and social reproduction; cultural conflict; cultural identity; cultural resistance; and subcultures.
- Identify, explain, and apply major theories of culture to empirical phenomena.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

Frank, Thomas. 1997. *The Conquest of Cool*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. (recommended).

All other readings will be available for download on our course Canvas page.

Please note that we will watch several films. Although these films can be accessed for free, they require an Amazon Prime or Netflix account. Please let me know if you do not have access to these services.

ASSESSMENT and GRADING:

1. **PARTICIPATION:** I will assess your participation in the course by posting weekly assignments to Canvas. The assignments will take three main forms: (1) discussion questions that you will respond to on our Canvas web board, (2) short writing assignments over prompts I create that will be submitted via Canvas, and (3) quizzes that test your knowledge of my video lectures and the assigned readings (also administered via Canvas). Please regularly monitor our course Canvas page (and your FAU email account) to stay abreast of the weekly assignments. Failing to check Canvas is not an excuse for failing to complete assignments.

I will aggregate your participation assignments at the end of the semester into a consolidated grade, which will be worth 20 percent of your final average.

2. **RESPONSE ESSAYS:** You will write three five-page response papers during the semester. I will announce each response topic before the due date. The response papers will ask you to explore and reflect upon the issues raised by the course material, and to work out your thoughts on them through writing. They should demonstrate that you have *read the required materials*, mulled over them, and developed the capacity to apply the concepts and theories they advance. Each paper is worth 20 percent of your final grade.

Due Dates:

Response #1 is due **Thursday, 2/11 by 11:59 pm via Canvas**

Response #2 is due **Thursday, 3/18 by 11:59 pm via Canvas**

Response #3 is due **Friday, 4/16 by 11:59 pm am via Canvas**

3. **FINAL EXAM:** I will administer a final exam at the end of the semester via Canvas. The exam will cover assigned readings, lectures, and the films that we view across the semester. I will provide further details about the format as it approaches. The final will be worth 20 percent of your final grade. The date of the final exam is listed on the timetable (4/22).

SUMMARY of GRADING and ASSESSMENT:

Assessment Component	Value
Participation	20 percent

Response essay #1	20 percent
Response essay #2	20 percent
Response essay #3	20 percent
Final exam	20 percent
Total	100 percent

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

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

1. If you attend in-person classes, you must follow the university's COVID-19 safety protocols. That means wearing a mask at all times, maintaining social distancing guidelines, and sanitizing your workstation upon entering the classroom. If you are experiencing flu-like symptoms or have come into contact with an infected person, you stay home and contact FAU Student Health Services (561-297-3512).
2. Although in-person attendance is optional, you are expected to treat this course as you would treat a normal one. This means tuning into livestreams, staying focused during and participating in class sessions, and keeping up with assignments. If you cannot tune into a livestream, I expect you to view the recording of it before the following class session begins and participate in the class in other ways (e.g., making discussion posts, staying in touch via email, etc.).
3. Please be respectful to both me and your peers during class discussions.
4. Please allow 24-48 hours for a response to emails. If you have a serious concern regarding the course, please plan to send up a Zoom meeting.

RECORDING POLICY

Students enrolled in this course may record video or audio of class lectures for their own personal educational use. A class lecture is defined as a formal or methodical oral presentation as part of a university course intended to present information or teach students about a particular subject. Recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to student presentations (whether individually or as part of a group), class discussion (except when incidental to and incorporated within a class lecture), labs, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, test or examination administrations, field trips, and private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the lecturer, is prohibited. Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation or class

attendance and may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of the University's Student Code of Conduct and/or the Code of Academic Integrity.

ABSENCES AND LATE WORK

You are expected to view all the prerecorded lectures I post to Canvas and attend all live web sessions. If you cannot attend a live session due to a legitimate reason (e.g., illness, family emergency, or court-imposed legal obligation), you are expected to view the recording as soon as possible after you are able.

If you anticipate missing or have missed an assignment deadline for a legitimate reason, please notify me ASAP to request accommodations (e.g., an extension). Please note that I reserve the right to request verifying documentation. If you fail to submit an assignment for an unexcused reason (e.g., poor planning, going on vacation, etc.), accommodations will be granted only at my discretion.

Although assignments are due on the dates, at the times, and in the format I have specified, you may submit work after the deadlines for a penalty. The penalty for late work is as follows:

- 5 points per day for the first two days
- 2 points for each additional day late
- 41 points total for any assignments that are 14 or more days late

ATTENDANCE POLICY STATEMENT

Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance.

Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations, or participation in University-approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances, and debate activities. It is the student's responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student's final course grade as a direct result of such absence.

RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS AND FACULTY

In accordance with regulations of the Florida Board of Governors and Florida law, students have the right to reasonable accommodations from the University in order to observe religious practices and beliefs with regard to admissions, registration, class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations, and work assignments. The details of this policy, as it pertains to FAU, may be found in the University Catalog and University Regulation 2.007, Religious Observances.

DISABILITY POLICY STATEMENT:

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at www.fau.edu/sas/.

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS) CENTER

Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to <http://www.fau.edu/counseling/>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see the Code of Academic Integrity in the University Regulations: http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf

TIMETABLE

Depending on how the course develops, modifications to the syllabus might be needed. I will announce any deviations in class and/or through email. You should complete the reading listed for each date before that particular meeting.

**Please note that “WG” denotes Wendy Griswold's *Cultures and Societies in a Changing World*.

Getting Started: Humanist Approaches to Studying Culture

1/12: Introduction to course. Humanist vs. sociological studies of culture.

1/14: The three meanings of culture and the cultural diamond. Read WG, chapter 1.

The Culture and Civilization Tradition

1/19: Culture and social order. Read. “Arnold, “Culture and Anarchy.”

1/21: Cultural crisis. Read Leavis, “Mass Civilization and Minority Culture.”

Mass Culture Debates and the Production of Culture Perspective

1/26: Mass society/mass culture debates. Read Macdonald, “Theory of Mass Culture.”

1/28: Youth culture and incorporation. View [Merchants of Cool](#).

The Frankfurt School and Critical Theory

- 2/2: Introduction to the Frankfurt School. Read Allan, “The Frankfurt School: Critiquing Modernity.”
- 2/4: The culture industry. Read Horkheimer and Adorno, “The Culture Industry.”
- 2/9: Freudianism and advertising. View [Century of the Self](#) parts I and II at home.
- 2/11: Wrap up discussion. Your first response paper is due via Canvas at 11:59 pm.

Contemporary Case Studies: The Advertising and Social Media Industries

- 2/16: 1960s Consumer revolution. Read Frank, *The Conquest of Cool*, chapters 1-2
- 2/18: Advertising and rebellion. Read Frank, chapters 3-4
- 2/23: Consumerism and conformity. Read Frank, chapters 5-6
- 2/25: Modern advertising strategy. Read Frank, chapters 7-8
- 3/2: Hipness and capitalism. View [Century of the Self](#), part III in class. Read Frank, chapters 10-11.
- 3/4: Contemporary case study: social media. Read “Have Smart Phones Destroyed a Generation?” and view [The Social Dilemma](#) at home.

Cultural Reception -- Resistance to the Cultural Industries

- 3/9: Introduction oppositional subcultural theory and psychobilly subculture. Read Kattari, pp.1-18 from the introduction of *Psychobilly Survival*.
- 3/11: Subculture formation. Read Kattari, “The Development of Psychobilly: Carrying on the Nonconformist Legacy of Rockabilly and Punk.”
- 3/16: Subcultural resistance. Read Kattari, “Carnavalesque Events and Transgressive Performance: Celebrating a Counterhegemonic Ideology.”
- 3/18: Wrap up discussion. Your second response paper is due via Canvas at 11:59 pm.

Cultural Production -- Cultural Hegemony and Cultural Ideologies

- 3/23: Culture, power, and collective memory. Read WG Chapter 8
- 3/25: Case study in cultural hegemony: anti-environmentalism. Read Lewin, “Coal is not a Job, It’s a Way of Life.”
- 3/30: Case study in cultural hegemony: the Trump election. Read Lewin, “Reaching the Boiling Point” (pp. 235-243). View [Century of the Self](#), part IV.
- 4/1: Case study: culture wars in America. Read Hunter, “Cultural Conflict in America.”
- 4/6: Case study: culture wars on college campuses. Read Lukianoff and Haidt, “The Coddling of the American Mind”

Cultural Capital and Social Reproduction

- 4/8: Introduction to Pierre Bourdieu: habitus, social reproduction, and symbolic violence. Read Applerouth and Edles, pp. 652-662.
- 4/13: Habitus, socialization, and inequality. Read Horvat and Antonio, “Hey, Those Shoes Are

Out of Uniform: African American Girls in an Elite High School and the Importance of Habitus.”

4/15: Wrap up discussion on class cultures. [View *People Like Us* online.](#)

Friday 4/16: Your third response paper is due via Canvas by 11:59

Wrapping Up

4/20 to 4/21: **Readings days**

Thursday, April 22nd at 10:30 am – 1:00 pm: **Final exam administered via Canvas.**