

HUM 4459 American Cultural Studies in Humanities

University of Central Florida
College of Arts and Humanities
Drop by Jun 29 / Add by Jun 30
Last day to withdraw July 20

In order for your attendance to be verified, you must submit your course contract within Canvas by the end of the first week of classes (Friday).

Contact Information

Dr. Stacy Lynn Tanner
Office: PSY 237
Email: stacy.tanner@ucf.edu

This syllabus contains information about assignments, requirements, and grading. Please refer to it often. You may access this syllabus online. If you elect to remain registered for the class, I regard that as your agreement to abide by the policies set out in the syllabus, and your acceptance of responsibility for knowing and following those policies.

Netiquette:

This is an online course. You should always communicate in complete, grammatically correct sentences. If you email me for any reason, follow proper email netiquette and maintain a respectful tone. Please use complete and correct sentences. Expect a response within 48 business hours. Please identify your course prefix and section number in the subject line of your email. Thank you!

Office Hours:

Any time you have questions about an assignment or a quiz, please reach out to ask. Attending office hours is the best way to address your questions regarding assignments. I will not extensively discuss assignments over email, but I am very happy to discuss assignments with you and provide feedback within webcourses and during office hours. Should you need additional feedback or have a question about any assignment, please reach out to ask.

Occasional Extended Office Hours: Notifications sent via Announcements.

Virtual Office Hours: By appointment. Create a Skype ID [here. \(Links to an external site.\)](#)[Links to an external site.](#) Identify a couple of days/times that you are available to Skype. Please email me the identified time and your Skype ID. Do not forget to check your email for a confirmation of the date/and time for the Skype. I will always do what I can to accommodate your reasonable requests. My skype ID is Dr.StacyTanner.

Course Description:

What does it mean to be an American? In this cultural studies course students will investigate this and many other questions regarding the production, marketing, and consumption of popular culture. Students will analyze the role of gender, race, and religion in American film during the 20th and 21st centuries. Students will explain and employ cultural studies theories and methods, develop and practice visual literacy, question and conceptualize the American cultural identity, assess the impact of film in shaping the American identity, evaluate the ways that Americans are united and/or divided by race, gender and religion and critique the relationship between American media and patterns of consumption.

Course Structure and Learning Outcomes:

This cultural studies course focuses on the production, dissemination, consumption and/or use of American cultural artifacts and practices. This course is organized into thematic units of study. We will study the origins and evolution of cultural studies. Here, students will be introduced to the theory and methods of this field from both the British and American perspectives. We will study gendered and racialized space in American culture and consider how Hollywood film shapes American identity.

Students who take this course will:

Identify and contextualize cultural contexts.

Identify, comprehend and utilize cultural studies theoretical approaches.

Read and think critically and argue persuasively.

Produce clear, efficient, and academic writing appropriate to the subject matter and the methods used.

Generate and pursue interesting and appropriate research questions in the humanities.

Speak clearly and convincingly about cultural ideas.

General Rules and Requirements:

1. You must be present in mind and body to be successful in this course. This means you need to complete weekly assignments and take notes on the course materials. You are expected to participate and complete the online assignments in much the same way you would if you were in a face-to-face (F2F) class. Therefore expect to spend about ten hours per week on completing course requirements and assignments.

2. You are responsible for ensuring the proper and timely submission of assignments, checking all grades, and reporting and discrepancies in a timely manner and no later than the last day of classes.

3. You are responsible for learning the writing conventions of this discipline. This means you are responsible for using the Modern Language Association (MLA) style guide and standards of citation in all your written assignments. You must learn to cite properly. You must cite properly in all written work.

Attendance Policy:

I will take attendance for verification of class enrollment and in accordance with university policy and federal laws. I will not take attendance for assessment purposes. You are responsible for all material presented in the online classroom and for all announcements and assignments. In order for your attendance to be verified, you must submit your course contract within Webcourses by the end of the first week of classes.

Assignment and Grading Policies:

Any time you have questions about an assignment, please reach out to ask. Setting up an appointment for virtual office hours is the best way to address your questions regarding assignments.

It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the computer s/he uses adheres to the requirements for webcourses to function properly. It is the student's responsibility to ensure a secure and reliable internet connection. If you experience a technical problem, you must email webcourses@ucf.edu immediately in order to log your problem. You must copy me on this email. If you do not complete this action immediately when you have a technical problem, I will not consider an accommodation. You will not receive an accommodation for a technical problem when accessing an assignment through a computer that does not meet the minimum specifications for webcourses as outlined by the university. When possible, I encourage you to submit assignments on campus, during business hours in order to avoid technical problems.

All written assignments must be submitted to our course website by the date and time due. All work must be original to you and done for the first time this semester for this class. **It is the student's responsibility to ensure proper and timely submission of all assignments.**

I do not generally offer incomplete grades. If you encounter a personal, documentable crisis during this semester and think that this is a good option for you, you must contact me in writing before the last day of regular classes. I do not guarantee that I will assign an incomplete simply because you request one. I guarantee that I will consider your request if you contact me by the last day of classes. You must provide/submit acceptable documentation with your request.

DO NOT MAKE FLIGHT OR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BEFORE YOU CHECK THE COURSE SCHEDULE/CALENDAR. Students are responsible for the timely submission of all writing assignments and for attending each exam session. Keep this in mind and manage your time to the best of your ability.

Late Assignments: I do not accept late work without assigning a penalty. If you experience a crisis and turn in an assignment late, it will receive a 50% penalty. All late work must be received by the last day of classes. This is not negotiable. You cannot make a habit of turning in assignments late and expect to be successful in this course. You must plan ahead and pay attention to your due dates. If you have a personal crisis, that requires too much of your time away from your studies, you may need to drop this course. This should also be discussed with your adviser. This course requires your diligent attention and effort. If you cannot commit the necessary time, this may not be the right course for you. If you have a crisis that prevents you from turning in an assignment, I also need to know. Contact me right away and we will work to find a solution.

Evaluation and Grading:

Presentation (20%) Students will complete a formal presentation. This presentation will relate the major ideas presented in a scholar's work. Your professor will assign the scholarly work. A schedule of presentations will be provided in webcourses during the first week of classes (after the drop and add dates). You will submit a media file and a powerpoint file. You will submit a screencast, video, or media file or youtube link for this presentation along with a powerpoint file to webcourses. You will submit both files to the same assignment link in webcourses. The powerpoint will include an MLA formatted works cited entry. More details can be found in webcourses. Each student is responsible for ensuring the functionality of all components and files within his or her submission. You may check the functionality yourself or call/email webcourses help. More details can be found in webcourses.

Participation (30%) Each student has the opportunity to present his or her unique ideas within group discussion boards. There is an expectation that each student will share those ideas and contribute to the class discussion on a regular basis. Be prepared to present and apply major ideas from the reading and film assignments AND to exchange ideas with classmates. I will assess the quality and consistency of your participation in the discussion boards at least twice during the course (once about half way through and once at the conclusion of the course). A complete discussion board is defined by sustained interaction that begins with an individual post that addresses all aspects of the prompt and is followed by at least one other substantial post that represents a clear exchange of relevant ideas with at least one other student. If you complete all the discussion boards (late or on-time), I will drop your lowest score. I must receive all late discussion boards by the last day of classes.

Critical Essay Assignments: (50%) Students will write and submit a critical essay analyzing an American film and employing the use of theories found in our course materials. You must have ready access to and view the film multiple times. Each student will complete a series of assignments meant to prepare him or her to write the critical essay. This includes a topic assignment. This topic assignment must be approved. More details are found in webcourses.

Grading Scale

94-100 A; 90-93 A-; 87-89 B+; 83-86 B; 80-82 B-; 77-79 C+; 73-76 C; 70-72 C-; 67-69 D+; 63-66 D; 60-62 D-; 59 and below F

Please read the full description of the grading scale found [here](#).

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK YOUR GRADES. YOU MUST ADDRESS ALL ISSUES WITH GRADES IMMEDIATELY BY EMAIL, BUT NO LATER THAN THE LAST DAY OF CLASSES.

Required Texts:

Selected readings and films posted in webcourses.

Recommended text:

Booth, Wayne et al. *The Craft of Research*. Third edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009. (or fourth edition). You should gain access to this book quickly.

*It is the sole responsibility of the student to ensure s/he completes each assigned readings and views each film in a timely manner. Students can access films online. You can find more information including many links within webcourses.

Brief Reading and Weekly Discussion Schedule:

Week 1 (June 26)	Course Overview Intro to Cultural Studies / Approaches, Methods, and Theory Discussion Board 1
Week 2 (July 3)	American Cultural Studies and the Nation Discussion Board 2 Topic Assignment July 7th Peer Review July 9th
Week 3 (July 10)	Race and Religion in Hollywood Film Discussion Board 3 Discussion Board 4 Works Cited July 14th Peer Review July 16th
Week 4 (July 17)	Argumentation aka Write Your Paper Week Outline July 21st Peer Review July 23rd
Week 5 (July 24)	Faith and Film Discussion Board 5
Week 6 (July 31)	American Identity Discussion Board 6 Critical Essay Due August 1st *Presentation due dates vary-check the schedule

Important Dates:

June 26 Classes begin
June 29 Last day to drop a class
June 30 Last day to add a class
July 20 Last day to withdraw from a class
August 4 Last day of classes

Assignment Schedule:

Discussion Boards: Weekly
Presentation due: Dates vary (see schedule)
Topic Assignment due: July 7th Peer Review July 9th
Works Cited July 14th Peer Review July 16th
Outline July 21st Peer Review July 23rd
Critical Essay due: August 1st

Other Policies:

Copyright:

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

Third-Party Software and FERPA:

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

Students with Disabilities: This class complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations must register with and provide documentation to the Student Accessibility Services (SAS), and provide a letter to the instructor from the SAS indicating what your need may be for academic accommodation. This should be done within the first week of class. The SAS is located in Ferrell Commons 7F Room 185, hours: Monday - Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm, and the office telephone is 407-823-2371. Students may also find information online at <http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu>

UCF Creed

Integrity, scholarship, community, creativity, and excellence are the core values that guide our conduct, performance, and decisions.

Integrity

I will practice and defend academic and personal honesty.

Scholarship

I will cherish and honor learning as a fundamental purpose of my membership in the UCF community.

Community

I will promote an open and supportive campus environment by respecting the rights and contributions of every individual.

Creativity

I will use my talents to enrich the human experience.

Excellence

I will strive toward the highest standards of performance in any endeavor I undertake.

***Civility Statement*:** A student-centered university conveys high expectations for appropriate behavior and is designed to assist students in the development of an informed set of values, ethics, and beliefs. It fosters a climate that promotes civility and respect. University students are expected to engage in behaviors that are consistent with the attainment of academic integrity and moral values. As members of the campus community, students are encouraged to actively support*

- *ethical behavior in all aspects of University and community living;*
- *civil discourse among all members of the campus community, treating each student with dignity and respect regardless of personal differences.*

Furthermore, all members of the community are expected to communicate in a civil manner in their professional interaction at all times, both in and out of the classroom. Academic discourse, including discussion and argumentation, is to be carried out in a polite, courteous, and dignified manner that is respectful of and understanding toward both peers and professors.

****Please note: THIS POLICY APPLIES TO ALL IN-CLASS AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS!***

Golden Rule: Plagiarism and Cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

Plagiarism Statement: Many incidents of plagiarism result from students' lack of understanding about what constitutes plagiarism. However, you are expected to familiarize yourself with UCF's policy on plagiarism. All work you submit must be your own scholarly and creative efforts and must be cited properly within the text of your paper and in the bibliography/works cited. UCF's Golden Rule defines plagiarism as follows: "whereby another's work is used or appropriated without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own." **YOU MUST WORK INDEPENDENTLY IN THIS COURSE. It is the student's full responsibility to learn, understand, and properly use MLA standards for in text citations and works cited entries for each assignment for this course.**

Please note: UCF faculty members have a responsibility for your education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to

infringements of academic integrity. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a "Z Designation" on a student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty, where the final grade for this course will be preceded by the letter Z. For more information about the Z Designation, see <http://z.ucf.edu/>.

For more information about UCF's Rules of Conduct, see <http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu/>.

Commitment: All members of the community understand that to succeed in classes, students must be active participants in their education while understanding and complying with each course syllabus. Students should plan on spending AT LEAST *two* hours of study for every *one* hour in class. For example, a 15-credit-hour schedule requires at least a 45-hour commitment per week. Outside preparation and class attendance alone do not guarantee success or the highest grades; rather, mastery of the material and acquisition of necessary skills determine success and grades.

Resources:

University Writing Center

Colbourn 105 and online through the tab, Success Resources

Satellite Locations: Main Library, Rosen Library & Online

407-823-2197

<http://uwc.ucf.edu/>

The University Writing Center (UWC) offers writing support to UCF students from first-year to graduate in every discipline. Trained peer consultants provide help at every stage of the writing process, including understanding assignments, researching, drafting, revising, incorporating sources, and learning to proofread and edit. The UWC's purpose is not merely to fix papers or to make better writers, but to teach writers strategies to navigate complex situations for writing, both in and outside the University. Consultations are available for individuals and small groups. To make the best use of the UWC, visit far enough before your due date to allow yourself time to revise after your consultation, browse the writing resources on our website, and arrange a regular weekly appointment if you'd like long-term help. You may schedule a 45-minute appointment by phone or by using the TutorTrac scheduler on our website; walk-in consultations are also available. In addition, the UWC seeks graduate and undergraduate tutors from all majors; contact the UWC to learn more about peer writing consulting and ENC 4275/5276: Theory & Practice of Tutoring Writing, our three-credit tutor-education course.

UCF Cares:

During your UCF career, you may experience challenges including struggles with academics, finances, or your personal well-being. UCF has a multitude of resources available to all students. Please visit UCFCares.com ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#) if you are seeking resources and support, or if you are worried about a friend or classmate. Free services and information are included for a variety of student concerns, including but not limited to alcohol use, bias incidents, mental health concerns, and financial challenges. You can also e-mail ucfcares@ucf.edu with questions or for additional assistance. You can reach a UCF Cares staff

member between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. by calling 407-823-5607. If you are in immediate distress, please call Counseling and Psychological Services to speak directly with a counselor 24/7 at 407-823-2811, or please call 911.

Incomplete Policy (again):

Please note that I do not automatically consider students for incomplete grades. If you believe you experienced a crisis during the term that requires special consideration for an incomplete, I need to hear from you by the last day of classes. You will be required to provide documentation of your extenuating circumstances. Please be aware that you will need to submit documentation regarding your circumstances upon request and in a timely manner -within 48 hours of reporting the circumstances. No requests for incompletes will be considered after final grades are reported to the university.

* The above course schedule and procedures are subject to change with notice.