American Cultural Studies in Humanities
University of Central Florida
HUM 4459 3 credit hours 19692
College of Arts and Humanities
Class Time: T/Th 1:30pm-2:45pm
Drop/Add Drop by Jan 15 Add by Jan 16
Last day to withdraw March 24

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.

Contact Information:
Dr. Stacy Lynn Tanner Phone: 407-823-2798
Office: PSY 237 Email: stacy.tanner@ucf.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:30-11:45pm (Walk in) and by appointment. Please email me your preferred meeting date and time to set up an appointment. 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!

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.

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 and race in American sports, music, and film during the 20th and 21st centuries.

Course Structure and Learning Outcomes: This cultural studies course focuses on the production, dissemination, consumption and/or use of American cultural artifacts and practices. The class has four units. We will study the origins and evolution of cultural studies in the first unit. Here, students will be introduced to the theory and methods of this field from both the British and American perspectives. In our second unit we will investigate the place of race and gender in relation to the dissemination Jazz music. During the third unit will study gendered and racialized space in American sports culture. In the fourth unit we will consider how Hollywood film shapes American identity.

Students who take this course 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 sport, music, and film in shaping the American identity.
- Evaluate the ways that Americans are united and/or divided by race and gender.
- Critique the relationship between American media and patterns of consumption
General Rules and Requirements:

1. Do not disturb your classmates or the classroom. Do NOT talk while others are talking. It is rude and will not be tolerated. Furthermore, ensure that your cell phone/pager/electronic devices are off, prior to the class starting. If you use a phone during class, you will be required to leave the classroom.

2. I will begin and close each class at the appointed time. I ask that you arrive on time and not pack your things before the scheduled end of each class.

3. You must be present in mind and body to be successful in this course. This means you need to come to class and take notes. You are expected to participate in class discussion on a regular basis.

4. You will use your UCF username and password to access your electronic announcements and grades. You must check your email at least twice a week. You are solely responsible for checking all grades, ensuring the proper and timely submission of assignments, and reporting and discrepancies no later than the last day of classes.

5. EXAMS—Once an exam has been administered and one student has turned in the completed exam, no one else will be admitted to the test. See policy on make up exams. Also, no student is allowed to leave the classroom once the exams have been passed out. Use the restroom BEFORE you come to class. All electronic devices must be in the off position and stowed for the duration of the exam period. If an electronic device is out, goes off, or is used in any way, the student will be dismissed from the examination WITHOUT the opportunity to make up the exam. No student may wear a hat of any kind during an exam. You need the pink scantron. You will also need a number two pencil. The exams may be administered online through Canvas. This is entirely at my discretion and is reserved as an emergency procedure. Expect to take the exams in the regular classroom.

6. There will be no use of tobacco products, alcohol, or drugs in the classroom. If you choose to use any of these products during my class, I will require you to leave the room. I reserve the right to report this behavior to the administration. I have a zero tolerance policy on tobacco, alcohol, and drugs. Do not come to class high, with dip in your mouth, or drunk. This is a simple rule.

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 class and for all announcements and assignments whether or not you are in attendance.

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.
Assignments and grade determination:

All written assignments must be submitted to the Turnitin link provided in our course website on the date due by the start of class. 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.

Participation (20%) Each student has the opportunity to present his or her unique ideas. 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 assignments in class.

Prospectus assignments: (20%) Writing is a process. In order to prepare you to write the research paper, you will complete a prospectus. This steps involved in completing a prospectus include at a minimum: 1) Researching, identifying, and narrowing a research topic, 2) Researching and compiling primary and secondary source materials and formatting a works cited, 3) Drafting a working thesis, and 4) Drafting an outline that supports your thesis statement and utilizes your research materials. You will be assessed on the product of each of step in the writing process. (Topic, 5% Works cited 5%, Thesis 5%, Outline 5%). The full assignment instructions and rubric are posted in webcourses.

Research Paper (20%) You will have an opportunity to further investigate a major course theme through the analysis of cultural artifacts. The successful completion of this paper assignment is crucial to your overall success in this course. The full assignment instructions and rubric are posted on our course website within webcourses.

Exams (midterm 20% and final 20%) = 40% You will take two tests, which assess your synthesis of lectures and course materials assigned for each unit (found the course website). The tests will be worth 20% each. The tests will be composed of multiple choice questions and will assess student understanding of the course materials as they relate to the course learning outcomes. In other words, you will have content questions, conceptual questions, and questions that ask you to analyze the significance of course materials, draw conclusions, or relate a concept across time and space. The exams will assess your understanding of those historical and cultural experiences and events that shape(d) the American cultural identity.

Students are expected to take exams at the scheduled time. If you miss the midterm exam you can make it up on April 23rd. However, I strongly advise against this method as students who take a missed exam on the last day of class rarely perform as well students who took the exams as scheduled. You may not retake an exam. You may only make-up the missed midterm exam. ALL make-up exams will be given at the same time on April 23rd. The make ups will be administered during regular class time.

DO NOT MAKE FLIGHT OR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BEFORE YOU CHECK THE EXAM AND DUE DATE SCHEDULE. Everyone must take the final exam at the appointed time. The section you registered for determines the final exam date and time. Keep this in mind and manage your time to the best of your ability.
**Late Work:** 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 April 27th at 5:00pm. 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 be discussed with your advisor. This course requires your diligent attention and effort. If you cannot commit the necessary time, this may not be the right course for you.

**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 full description of the grading scale found here: [https://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~ncoverst/What%20does%20my%20grade%20mean.htm](https://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~ncoverst/What%20does%20my%20grade%20mean.htm)

**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.

*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 via reserve and library holdings, SWANK, Netflix or Amazon Prime (individual subscriptions and or rentals for a fee). You can find more information including many links within webcourses.*

**Reading and weekly discussion schedule:**

**Unit 1**
Course Overview and Introduction
Theory and Methods
**Research Topic: Due Jan 29th**

Jan 12-Feb 5

**Unit 2**
Race, gender and the evolution of Jazz music
**Works Cited Due Feb 12th**
**Midterm Exam: Mar 3rd**
**Outline Due Mar 5th**

Feb 10- Mar 5

**Unit 3**
Race, Gender, and Sports
**Rough Draft Due Apr 2nd**

March 17-Apr 2

**Unit 4**
Race, Gender, and Hollywood Film
**Research Paper Due April 21st**
**Make-up Midterms Apr 23rd**

Apr 7- Apr 23
**Important Dates:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 12-16</td>
<td>Drop by Jan 15/Add by Jan 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 29</td>
<td>Research Topic: Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 12</td>
<td>Works Cited Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 3</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 5</td>
<td>Outline Due</td>
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<td>Mar 9-14</td>
<td>Spring Break Woot!</td>
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<td>Mar 24</td>
<td>Last day to withdraw</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 2</td>
<td>Rough Draft Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 21</td>
<td>Research Paper Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 23</td>
<td>Make-up Midterms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 27</td>
<td>Last day of classes; late work must be submitted by 5:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 29- May 5</td>
<td>Final exam period. See registrar schedule.</td>
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Registrar’s website for academic calendar: [http://calendar.ucf.edu/2015/spring](http://calendar.ucf.edu/2015/spring)

Exam Schedule (The midterm is subject to change with notice, but it is highly unlikely to change)

- Midterm: Mar 3
- Final Exam: varies by section and meeting time.

Other Policies:

**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 Disability Services (SDS), and provide a letter to the instructor from the SDS indicating what your need may be for academic accommodation. This should be done within the first week of class. The SDS 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://sds.sdes.ucf.edu/](http://sds.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!

Academic Honesty Policies:

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. THERE IS NO GROUP WORK.

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
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 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.
* The above course schedule and procedures are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.
* I expect to remain on schedule. Keep in mind that there is a direct positive correlation between class attendance and course grades
Fill this out and submit to the Turnitin link provided in webcourses/assignments/course contract.

COURSE prefix, number and section number _________________________

Sign and return by the first day of the second week of classes.

Student Agreement  Name _______________________________(printed)

I have read and agree to abide by the University Academic Honor code.

(signature)__________________________________________Date______________

I will check my grades and report discrepancies immediately, but no later than the last day of classes.

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.

I read and understand the above statements.

(signature)__________________________________________Date______________