



**FLORIDA
ATLANTIC
UNIVERSITY**

COURSE CHANGE REQUEST Undergraduate Programs

Department Sociology
College Arts and Letters

UUPC Approval 12/4/23
UFS Approval _____
SCNS Submittal _____
Confirmed _____
Banner Posted _____
Catalog _____

Current Course Prefix and Number SYP 3630

Current Course Title
Sociology of Popular Culture

Syllabus must be attached for ANY changes to current course details. See Template. Please consult and list departments that may be affected by the changes; attach documentation.

Change title to:

Change prefix

From: _____ **To:** _____

Change course number

From: _____ **To:** _____

Change credits*

From: _____ **To:** _____

Change grading

From: _____ **To:** _____

Change WAC/Gordon Rule status**

Add Remove

Change General Education Requirements***

Add Remove

*See Definition of a Credit Hour.

**WAC/Gordon Rule criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to this form. See WAC Guidelines.

***GE criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to this form. See Intellectual Foundations Guidelines.

Change description to:

This course examines different forms of popular culture, including art, music, literature, fashion, and the mass media from a sociological perspective. It also explores various meanings of 'popular culture' and its complex relations with folk culture, elite culture, subcultures, countercultures, mass media, and social media

Change prerequisites/minimum grades to:

Change corequisites to:

Change registration controls to:

Please list existing and new pre/corequisites, specify AND or OR and include minimum passing grade (default is D-).

Effective Term/Year for Changes: Fall 2024

Terminate course? Effective Term/Year for Termination:

Faculty Contact/Email/Phone Robert Caputi/rcaputi@fau.edu/561-297-3270

Approved by

Department Chair Ann Branaman

College Curriculum Chair E. D. [Signature]

College Dean [Signature]

UUPC Chair Korey Sorge

Undergraduate Studies Dean Dan Meeroff

UFS President _____

Provost _____

Date

11/6/23

11/13/23

11/14/23

12/4/23

12/4/23

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



Florida Atlantic University
Department of Sociology
Fall 2024

Sociology of Popular Culture **CRN 15622 - SYP 3630 - 001 (3 credit hours)**

Professor Robert Caputi

Email: rcaputi@fau.edu

Office: Culture and Society Building 263

Office hours: Monday 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm and by appointment

Phone Number: 561-297-3275

Class format: Lecture (There is no remote option for this course)

Prerequisites: This course has no prerequisites

Major/minor: This course can be counted towards the sociology major or minor.

Meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30 pm – 4:50 pm, General Classroom South 109

****Please listen to announcements made at the beginning of class and read announcements made on Canvas. Please email me at any time with questions. ****

Course description

This course examines different forms of popular culture, including art, music, literature, fashion, and the mass media from a sociological perspective. It also explores various meanings of ‘popular culture’ and its complex relations with folk culture, elite culture, subcultures, countercultures, mass media, and social media.

Course objectives

- Students will learn the various meanings of the term “popular culture” and its complex relations with folk culture, elite culture, subcultures, countercultures, mass media, and social media.
- Students will become familiar with how to think of popular culture in its aesthetic, economic, social, technological and political contexts.

- Students will be able to theorize about popular culture from these perspectives: functionalism, critical theory, cultural studies, symbolic interactionism, critical race theory, feminist theory, and queer theory.
- Students will be able to analyze specific popular cultural texts, such as movies, television, and music as well as phenomena including language, food, dress, heroes, and rituals with their knowledge of the above concepts and their use of the sociological imagination.

Evaluation of Students:

1. Attendance, participation, short homeworks, possible quizzes, and in-class assignments (15%). Note: Wearing headphones, signing someone else’s name on the attendance sheet, excessive talking while others are talking, excessive cell phone use, or leaving the room too much, can result in you receiving a zero for this portion of your grade.
2. Two Exams: Midterm and final = 25% each. Students will be responsible for all assigned reading whether or not it is discussed in class, and for all additional material presented in lectures whether or not it appears in the readings.
3. Short writing assignment (10%). Due dates and further instructions will be announced.
4. Final 6-8-page paper, due the last day of class OR in-class presentation (25%). More information on these assignments will be passed out in class.

****Late Work will be penalized five points per day****

REQUIRED TEXT:

Mix it Up: Popular Culture, Mass Media, and Society, David Grazian. 3rd Edition. 2023. ISBN: 978-1324033288

This is the only book you need to buy. Some additional readings will be placed on Canvas.

Grading Scale

93-100	A	80-82	B-	67-69	D+
90-92	A-	77-79	C+	63-66	D
87-89	B+	73-76	C	60-62	D-
83-86	B	70-72	C-	0-59	F

SCHEDULE:

Readings should be finished by the date listed.

Week 1: August 22nd & 24th

Chapter 1: Everything Counts: The Social Organization of Popular Culture

Week 2: August 29th & 31st

No new readings

Week 3: September 5th & 7th

Chapter 2: We Are the Champions: A Functionalist Approach to Popular Culture

Week 4: September 12th & 14th

Chapter 3: Welcome to the Machine: A Critical Approach to Popular Culture

Week 5: September 19th & 21st

Chapter 4: Come Together: An Interaction Approach to Popular Culture

Week 6: September 26th & 28th

Chapter 5: We Can Work It Out: Creating Popular Culture

Week 7: October 3rd & 5th

Midterm: October 5th

Week 8: October 10th & 12th

Chapter 6: Nobody Knows: How the Media and Culture Industries work

Week 9: October 17th & 19th

Chapter 7: Living in the Material World: Cultural Consumption and Social Class in America

Week 10th: October 24th & 26th

Chapter 8: Don't Stop Believing: Audiences and the Quest for Meaning in Popular Culture

Week 11: October 31st & November 2nd

Chapter 9: Uptown Funk: Popular Culture and Urban Life in the City

Week 12: November 7th & 9th

Chapter 10: Pop Goes the World: The Globalization of Media and Popular Culture

Week 13: November 14th & 16th

Straubhaar, "Video Games" (Canvas)

Week 14: November 23rd

No class (Thanksgiving break)

Week 15: November 28th & 30th

Readings to be determined

***This syllabus is subject to change, depending on how the class progresses, to best meet the needs of the students and the professor. ***

University policies & advice

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.

Code of Academic Integrity & Honor Code: The honor code states: "Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, 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 University Regulation 4.001:

http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Honor_Code.pdf.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: 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 – in 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/>

For more information on the Davie campus, go to:

<http://www.fau.edu/student/broward/counselingbroward/>

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.

Student Resources website: <http://www.fau.edu/studentresources/>