SOCS 2412: Sociology of Popular Culture

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3
Lecture Hours/Week: 3
Lab Hours/Week: *
OJT Hours/Week: *
Prerequisites: None
Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci, Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

This course meets Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC) goal areas 5 and 9. The Simpsons, Rihanna, Cosmo. How do you know if something is "popular"? Furthermore, why should we care about the nature of popular culture in our society? Understanding popular culture might be a bit like seeing the forest through the trees because we are significantly immersed in it every day. This course examines the role of popular culture from a sociological perspective. We will examine the dynamics of how popular culture impacts how we live our lives and interact in society. By the end of this course you will have examined how popular culture is ubiquitous and how it influences race, gender, social class, economy and globalization.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 05/18/2009 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Analyze one topic in popular culture in-depth and understand that forms impact on culture.
2. Identify and understand how inequality in gender, age, race and social class impacts and is impacted by popular culture.
3. Identify and understand how popular culture has played a role in students own lives.
4. Identify and understand the global role of popular culture in the United States.
5. Identify and understand the role of popular culture in society.
6. Understand and apply the role of multiple forms of media and advertising in popular culture.
7. Understand and connect the primary theoretical perspectives to popular culture.

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. The learner will have the ability to define and examine popular culture through sociological and cultural theory and its role in social institutions.
2. The learner will be able to analyze, discuss and develop a comprehensive understanding of their role in popular culture as an active participant.
3. The learner will be able to analyze and discuss contributions of popular culture within social institutions.
E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci
1. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
2. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
3. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp
1. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
2. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
3. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT
As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION
None noted