ENGL 265-10, Introduction to Cultural Studies
Summer 2018, June 4 – July 6
MTWR 3:15 – 5:15
Prof. Henry Schwarz
Location TBA
Office: 319 New North; Office phone: 687-7647; Dept. phone: 687-7435; Fax: 687-5445
schwarzh@georgetown.edu
Office hours: W 1:00-3:00 and by appointment

Required texts:
Citizen, Claudia Rankine
Ways of Seeing, John Berger
A Room of One’s Own, Virginia Woolf
Imaginary Maps: Three Stories, Mahasweta Devi
Please purchase your books at Bridge Street Books, an independent bookseller: 2814 Pennsylvania Ave. (202) 965-5200; or Powells.com
Additional essays will be placed on Blackboard (Bb). You must bring personal copies to class. All books are on reserve in Lauinger Library.

Highly Recommended:
Culture and Media Studies: Keywords, Kellner and Durham (D&K)
Grossberg, Nelson, Treichler, eds., Cultural Studies (CS)
Simon During, ed., The Cultural Studies Reader (CSR)
Raymond Williams, Keywords (K)
Raymond Williams, Marxism and Literature (ML)

Evaluation:
Two short papers 30%
Collaborative Research Project 30%
Oral presentation 10%
Attendance, participation, quizzes 30%

Objective:
Why is Hamilton such a hit? How does Lemonade capture the movement for black lives?

We will try to answer some of these questions using the critical method of Cultural Studies. As developed since the early 1960s, Cultural Studies is the critical study of contemporary culture with the goal of changing it. We will explore generally how intellectuals, artists and writers have effected social change. This course focuses on the great books and cultural events that have shaped the modern world. We will see how certain key books gave rise to social movements beyond private reading, and how these movements in turn inspired cultural shifts. Our goal will be to understand and engage the process of cultural transformation, and to participate in it.

We will analyze how cultural objects interlace categories of class, race, gender, nation and sexuality to produce a “cultural ensemble of power” that performs actual work
in the world. Our job will be to understand how this works and how to use it to produce non-violent but revolutionary change.

We will cover the history and theory of the field from the formation of the Birmingham Center for the Study of Contemporary Culture in the 1960s to the present, charting its main interaction with contemporary social movements such as civil rights, women’s liberation, LGBTQ equality, and third world decolonization.

We will explore the older historical genealogies of Marxism, feminism, anti-slavery, sexual equality, deconstruction, postcolonialism, postmodernism and media literacy to see how this works.

We will also look at activism on campus and at large, such as the fossil fuel divestment campaign and 350.org, LGBTQ demands and the diversity drive, Black Lives Matter and the Occupy Movement, United Students Against Sweatshops, and criminal justice reform. Students will develop independent research projects. The teaching approach to this course will be heavily influenced by methods developed in the Doyle and ITEL programs, which seek to foster active student engagement with difference and the diversity of human experience.

**Learning Goals:**
As an undergraduate introduction, this course has four main objectives. Over the course of the semester students who take this class should expect . . .

1. to survey theories and fictions of Culture Studies in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries in the United States, Britain, and globally;
2. to gain a broad but disciplined understanding of the major themes, debates, and approaches that are central to the field of Cultural Studies in its present configuration;
3. to improve their ability to discern how cultural texts shape, and are shaped by, historical contexts; and
4. to work toward achieving professional levels of writing, research, and critical engagement.

Experience in the field of Cultural Studies isn’t a prerequisite for this course. However, a cursory knowledge of the basic terms and techniques of cultural analysis will likely prove helpful. The Recommended reading on reserve at Lauinger will help guide your explorations.

**Writing Center:**
Since writing is a valued part of this class, I encourage you to visit the Writing Center (217a Lauinger) and work with one of the Center’s trained tutors. Just as I share my own writing with people I trust before making it public, you can share your writing with student peers at the Writing Center before submitting drafts for this class. While you will always be solely responsible for the writing you submit and the Center’s tutors won’t do your work for you, Writing Center tutors can talk you through any stage of your writing process, from brainstorming a thesis and organizing your thoughts to revising, editing and proofreading. It’s a terrific, free service. To set up an appointment, visit [http://writingcenter.georgetown.edu](http://writingcenter.georgetown.edu).

Oh by the way: Georgetown has a strict policy on plagiarism. Understand it and don’t get thrown out of school: [http://honorcouncil.georgetown.edu/whatisplagiarism](http://honorcouncil.georgetown.edu/whatisplagiarism)
Schedule:
is provisional and subject to change. There is a lot of open space to afford flexibility.

**June**
4 - 7 Intro to *Hamilton* and *Lemonade*. Intro to Cultural Studies. Readings from the tradition, and where to look in today’s media. 9/11. Democracy Now!

11 – 14 CS classics: Karl Marx, Virginia Woolf, Frantz Fanon, Angela Davis

18 – 21 CS Up to date: Claudia Rankine, John Berger, Women’s March on Washington

25 – 28 Circling back on *Hamilton* and *Lemonade*; “Sex, Subjectivity, Representation;” Raymond Williams, “Base and Superstructure,” “Dominant, Residual, Emergent.” Short field trip to India.

**July**

**Potential Studio/ Lab topics:**
Fake News/ Social Media
#MeToo
Boots Riley and Black Lives Matter
Opening of US and Cuba
Buena Vista Social Club
Ta Nahesi Coates
Climate Change/ 350.org
Dan Deacon