



"Gagged George Washington" – U Street, NW, Washington, DC

"Those people I've been talking about today -- the poor -- they're not 'those people,' they're not 'them.' They're us. They're you. They dream as you dream. They value what you value. There is no them, only us. The American anthem is not exceptionalism, it's universalism. 'I am because we are'." – Bono at Georgetown University, 2012

It is interesting that many women do not recognize themselves as discriminated against; no better proof could be found of the totality of their conditioning.
Kate Millett, *Sexual Politics*

*The hurt becomes repetition, the love almost lost that
Sick venom in men and women overcome with pride
A perfect world is never perfect, only filled with lies
Promises are broken and more resentment come alive
Race barriers make inferior you and I
"Pride" - Kendrick Lamar*

"...what is at stake here is the possibility that Cultural Studies could promote in students, not a striving after a predetermined or a once and-for-all complacent accession to a given set of cultural values, but rather a continual analysis of their own conditions of existence. Such a praxis, founded in an overthrowing of the preassumptions of traditional disciplinary approaches to culture, is a pre-requisite for self-conscious and effective resistance to dominant structures.
"The Need for Cultural Studies" - Henry Giroux, David Shumway, Paul Smith, and James Sosnoski

ENGL 265

Introduction to Cultural Studies

Spring 2023

Georgetown University

Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30 – 4:45 pm

Car Barn 301

Instructor: Ellen Gorman - elg27@georgetown.edu

Available Hours: Thursdays 2:00 – 3:00 pm and by appointment

Required Texts

A Critical and Cultural Theory Reader, Anthony Easthope and Kate McGowan (second edition)

Loaded: A Disarming History of the Second Amendment, Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (pdf in Canvas)

Tales of Two Americas, John Freeman (pdf in Canvas)

Dying of Whiteness, Jonathan M. Metzler (pdf in Canvas)

Films/Video (Sharestream/Canvas or Online):

Fruitvale Station (2013); ***American Factory*** (2019/Netflix); ***Do Not Resist*** (2016); ***She's Beautiful When She's Angry*** (2014)

Course Description:

This course will focus on a history and examination of the set of theories, practices and methodologies that define the field of Cultural Studies. By reading and situating the theory, we can critique the production and consumption of cultural objects, including popular culture and avant-garde art. To pursue critical analyses of our own in the class, we will interrogate concepts such as culture, ideology, representation, taste, style, and subculture, with attention to the specific tensions between language and visual images. Texts will draw from critical and cultural theory, literature, film, video, music, and the graphic novel, with a particular emphasis on contemporary artistic modes of expression.

The overall frame around any of our inquiries in this course is the development of critical thinking and writing skills.

List of assignments and percentage of grade

Response Papers (12 @ 5% each)	60%
Researched Argument	20%
Discussion Board/Online	5%
Discussion/Participation/Attendance	15%

Grading

All assignments are to be posted to the Canvas site for the course on the due date and time (EST). Assignments submitted after the deadline will be dropped 10 points; assignments submitted 24 hours late will be dropped 20 points. A grade of “No Credit” or 0 points will be given for assignments submitted later than 24 hours late.

Sustained participation in the course via these assignments is integral to the course – unless there is a documented reason (medical/family emergency) for non-submission, no exemptions will be offered.

All students are encouraged to avail themselves of the free services at the University’s Writing Center:
<http://www.georgetown.edu/departments/english/writing/wcenter.html>.

Discussion/Participation/Device Usage

The English Department stipulates no more than three excused absences per semester. Your participation in class discussions is an essential element of the course. Please keep both in mind and the impact non-participation will have on your grade.

Please also keep in mind that this is a discussion-based seminar and there are no quizzes or tests; therefore, there is no need to take notes/use a laptop or other device in class (without official accommodation).

Use of phones in class is prohibited; phone usage will result in grade deduction (from the participation segment of the grade total).

University Policies

All Georgetown University policies, as stated in the Undergraduate Bulletin, will be observed:
<http://www.georgetown.edu/undergrad/bulletin/>.

All students are required to be aware of the University’s Honor Code regulations:
<http://www.georgetown.edu/undergrad/bulletin/regulations6.html#standards>.

If you believe that you have a disability that will affect your performance in this class, please contact the Academic Resource Center (<http://academicsupport.georgetown.edu/>) for further information. The center is located in the Leavey Center, Suite 335. The Academic Resource Center is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students with disabilities and for determining reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and University policies.

Georgetown University and its faculty are committed to supporting survivors of sexual misconduct, including relationship violence, sexual harassment, and sexual assault. University policy requires faculty members to report any disclosures about sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator, whose role is to coordinate the University’s response to sexual misconduct. Georgetown has a number of fully confidential professional resources who can provide support and assistance to survivors of sexual assault and other forms of sexual misconduct.

These resources include Jen Schweer, MA, LPC, Associate Director of Health Education Services for Sexual Assault Response and Prevention, (202) 687-0323 (jls242@georgetown.edu) and Erica Shirley, Trauma Specialist Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS), (202) 687-6985 (els54@georgetown.edu).

More information about campus resources and reporting sexual misconduct can be found at <http://sexualassault.georgetown.edu>.

Sensitive Material

At times this semester we will be discussing events and issues that may be disturbing, even traumatizing, to some students. If you ever feel the need to withdraw from reading, listening to or viewing a specific text, please feel free to do so. Also be in touch with me so that we may find a substitute for you to engage with that is more suitable.

SCHEDULE

January 12 Introduction to course

January 17 Please be prepared to discuss:

- “Vanishing Americans” – Ari Kelman, from *Myth America: Historians Take on the Biggest Legends and Lies About Our Past* - New York: Basic Books, 2023.
- “America First” – Sarah Churchwell, from *Myth America: Historians Take on the Biggest Legends and Lies About Our Past* - New York: Basic Books, 2023.

January 19 Please be prepared to discuss:

- “The Need for Cultural Studies: Resisting Intellectuals and Oppositional Public Spheres” – Introduction and Part I Henry Giroux, David Shumway, Paul Smith, and James Sosnoski - *Dalhousie Review*, pps.472-486, 1984.

Cultural Studies – “the arena of consent and resistance”

January 22 **Response 1 Due on Canvas by 10:00 pm**

- Read: “Stuart Hall and the Rise of Cultural Studies” – Hua Hsu, *TheNewYorker.com*
- Read: Michel Foucault, from *Discipline and Punish* (Theory Reader)
- Read: Michel Foucault, from *The History of Sexuality* (Theory Reader)
- View site: “The Faces of American Power” – *TheNewYorkTimes.com*, September 2020.

January 24 Discussion of response 1 materials

January 26 Discussion of response 1 materials

“The language of conflict”

January 29 **Response 2 Due on Canvas by 10:00 pm**

- Read: F.R. Leavis, “Mass Civilisation and Minority Culture”
- Read: Raymond Williams, from *Culture and Society*
- Read: “When the Rich Rail Against the Elites” – Jane Coaston, *The New York Times*, October 2, 2021.
- Read: “The Doom Spiral of Pernicious Polarization” – Yascha Mounk, *The Atlantic*, May 21, 2022.
- Watch: “A Message from Tyler” – Tyler Childers, YouTube, September 18, 2020

January 31 Discussion of response 2 materials

February 2 Discussion of response 2 materials

February 5 **Response 3 Due on Canvas by 10:00 pm**

- Listen to podcast: “America’s Philosophy with Cornel West” - The Gray Area with Sean Illig, Vox.com, December 22, 2022.

February 7 Discussion of Response 3 material

February 9 Discussion of Response 3 material

Power/Class

February 12 **Response 4 Due on Canvas by 10:00 pm**

- Read: Karl Marx, ‘Preface,’ *A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy* (Theory Reader)
- Read: Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, from *The German Ideology* (Theory Reader)
- Read: Roland Barthes, “Wine and Milk” from *Mythologies* (1957)
- Read: “The 9.9% is the New American Aristocracy” – Matthew Stewart, *TheAtlantic.com*, June 15, 2018.
- Read: “We Are (Still) the 99 percent” – Emily Stewart, *Occupy.com*, May 2, 2019.

February 14 Discussion of Response 4 materials

February 16 Discussion of Response 4 materials

February 19 **Response 5 Due on Canvas by 10:00 pm**

- Read: Choose four texts to read from *Tales of Two Americas* (respond to each in Response 5)
- Read: "The Magic of the Marketplace" – Naomi Oreskes and Eric M. Conway, from *Myth America: Historians Take on the Biggest Legends and Lies About Our Past* - New York: Basic Books, 2023
- Check out: "Major Social Safety Net Programs in the US" – UC-Davis: Poverty.ucdavis.edu
- Read: "Poverty is Violent" – Nicholas Dawidoff, *The Atlantic*, December 28, 2022.
- Listen to podcast: "Why progressive gestures from big business aren't just useless, they're dangerous" - Carl Rhodes, *The Guardian*, 28 October 2021.
- Read: "The Rich Get College Subsidies While the Student Debt Debate Goes On" – Ron Lieber, *The New York Times*, December 13, 2022.
- Read: "The Fight for Fifteen at an Orlando McDonalds" - Eleni Schirmer, *The New Yorker*, February 15, 2021.
- Read: "Unions Have Won the War of Ideas. Will That Win Them Power?" – Eric Levitz, *NYMag.com*, September 4, 2019.
- Watch: *American Factory* (Netflix)

February 21 **No Class/Monday Schedule**

February 23 Discussion of Response 5 materials

Power/Gender

February 26 **Response 6 Due on Canvas by 10:00 pm**

- Read: Laura Mulvey, from *Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema (Theory Reader)*
- Read: Simone de Beauvoir, Introduction to *The Second Sex (Theory Reader)*
- Read: Vox Explainer: "The waves of feminism, and why people keep fighting over them" – Constance Grady, *Vox.com*
- Watch Documentary: *She's Beautiful When She's Angry* – Mary Dore, September 17, 2018, YouTube or *Tubi.com*
- "Sexual Politics" and the Feminist Work That Remains Undone – Rebecca Mead, *The New Yorker*, February 4, 2016.
- Read: "Family Values Feminism" – Natalia Mehlman Petrzela, from *Myth America: Historians Take on the Biggest Legends and Lies About Our Past* - New York: Basic Books, 2023.
- Listen to: "Reproductive Rights and Reproductive Justice" - Origins OSU, June 23, 2016.
- Listen to podcast: "A Secret Campaign to Influence the Supreme Court" – November 29, 2022, *The Daily* – *The New York Times*.

February 28 Discussion of Response 6 materials

March 2 Discussion of Response 6 materials

March 7 and 9 **No Classes/Spring Break**

March 12 **Response 7 Due on Canvas by 10:00 pm**

- Read: "How do patriarchy and capitalism jointly reinforce the oppression of women?" – Camille Bruneau, *CADTM.org*, September 13, 2018.
- Read: "Why Terrorism Misses the Mark When it Comes to Incels" - Eviane Leidig, *ICCT*, 31 August 2021.
- Read: "Beyonce's 'Lemonade' is capitalist money-making at its best" - bell hooks, *The Guardian*, 11 May 2016.
- Read: "The New Canon of #MeToo" - Anna Tarnow, *ChristianScienceMonitor.com*, November 18, 2019.
- Read: "In Her Words" Series - *TheNewYorkTimes.com*, September 30, 2021.
- Read: "The Miseducation of the American Boy" - Peggy Orenstein, *TheAtlantic.com*, December 2019.
- Watch: "The Rifle" - spoken word poem by Rudy Francisco, April 19, 2019, YouTube.
- Read: "The New Anti-Feminism" - Sarah Jones, *New York Magazine*, November, 2021.
- Read: "Loss, fear and rage: Are white men rebelling against democracy?" – Edward Lempinen, *Berkeley News*, UC Berkeley, November 14, 2022.
- Read: Excerpt from *White Women*, Regina Jackson and Saira Rao, New York: Penguin, 2022.

March 14 Discussion of Response 7 materials

March 16 Discussion of Response 7 materials

Power/Race

March 19 **Response 8 Due on Canvas by 10:00 pm**

- Read: Frantz Fanon, from *Black Skin, White Masks (Theory Reader)*
- Read: Homi K. Bhabha, from "The 'Other' Question" (*Theory Reader*)
- Read: Cornel West, excerpt from *Race Matters*, New York: Beacon Press, 1993.
- Watch: "Malcolm X's Fiery Speech Addressing Police Brutality" – 1962, SmithsonianChannel.com (YouTube)
- Watch: "The Most Powerful Speech in a Generation: Tamika Mallory" – YouTube, June 10, 2020
- Read: "Black Lives Matter, Black Power, and the Role of White Allies" - Say Burgin, AAIHS.org
- Watch video/read lyrics at Genius.com: "The Bigger Picture" – Lil Baby (YouTube)
- Watch video/read lyrics at Genius.com: "Land of the Free" - Joey Bada\$\$ (YouTube)
- Watch: Ta-Nahisi Coates testifies on reparations at House Hearing, June 19, 2019, YouTube.
- Read: "Education After Affirmative Action" – Jeannie Suk Gerson, *The New Yorker*, October 29, 2022.
- Read: "Confederate Monuments" – Karen L Cox, from *Myth America: Historians Take on the Biggest Legends and Lies About Our Past* – New York: Basic Books, 2023
- Read/check out: "'Rumors of War' in Richmond Marks a Monumentally Unequal America" - Susan Stamberg, NPR. org
- Read: Excerpt from *The Myth and Propaganda of Black Buying Power* – Black Power Media
- Screen: *Fruitvale Station* (Sharestream)

March 21 Discussion of Response 8 materials

March 23 Visit from Dr. Jared Ball, Morgan State University, author of *Myth of Black Buying Power*

March 26 **Response 9 Due on Canvas by 10:00 pm**

- Read: "The Weight of Being a Black Student Feels So Heavy Right Now" – Emily Davies, *The Washington Post*, December 26, 2022.
- Read: "This is what community looks like": Student activists receive university response to hate crime, ending sit-in" – *The Georgetown Voice*, Franzi Wild, Nora Scully and Annabella Hoge, December 9, 2022.
- Read: "This is What Racism Sounds Like in the Banking Industry" – Emily Flitter, *TheNewYorkTimes.com*, December 11, 2019.
- Read: "No Room at the Top: Why Are U.S. Boardrooms So White?" – Pamela Newkirk, *TheGuardian.com*
- Read: Edward Said, excerpt from *Orientalism (Theory Reader)*
- Read: "The 'Whitening' of Asian Americans" – Iris Kuo, *TheAtlantic.com*
- Read: "The desperate, confused, righteous campaign to stop Asian hate." – Esther Wang, *New York Magazine*, September 26, 2022.
- Read/Look at: "Corky Lee's Photographs Helped Generations of Asian Americans See Themselves" - Hua Hsu, *TheNewYorker.com*
- Read: "Affirmative action appears in jeopardy after marathon arguments" – Amy Howe, *Scotus.blog*, October 31, 2022.

March 28 Discussion of Response 9 materials

March 30 Discussion of Response 9 materials

April 2 **Response 10 Due on Canvas by 10:00 pm**

- Read all of *Dying of Whiteness*
See specific criteria for response in assignment

April 4 **No Class/Discussion Board on Canvas**

April 6 **No Class/Easter Break**

April 11 Discussion of Response 10 materials

April 13 Discussion of Response 10 materials

Power/Fear/Violence

April 16 **Response 11 Due on Canvas by 10:00 pm**

- Read: Slavoj Žižek, from *The Sublime Object of Ideology*, from second edition, *A Critical and Cultural Theory Reader*, Easthope et.al., Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2004.
- Read: Jean Baudrillard, from *Simulations (Theory Reader)*
- Check out: "Hate Crimes, Explained" – Southern Poverty Law Center and Hate Map, *SPLC.org*
- Read: Excerpts from *American Hate*, Arjun Sethi, New York: The New Press, 2018.
- Read/check out: "The Military, Police, and the Rise of Terrorism in the United States" – Seth Jones and Catrina Doxsee,

Center for Strategic and International Studies, April 12, 2021.

- Screen: *Do Not Resist* (Sharestream)
- Read: "Police Violence" – Elizabeth Hinton, *Myth America: Historians Take on the Biggest Legends and Lies About Our Past* – New York: Basic Books, 2023.
- Read: "Police Militarization Gave us Uvalde" – Arthur Rizer, *The Atlantic*, June 17, 2022.

April 18 Discussion of Response 11 materials

April 20 Discussion of Response 11 materials

April 23 **Response 12 Due on Canvas by 10:00 pm**

- Read all of: *Loaded*, Roxane Dunbar-Ortiz
- Check out site: "The Economic Cost of Gun Violence in America" – EverytownforResearch.org
- Listen to podcast: "School Gun Violence and Youth Mental Health" - - Maya Rossin-Slater, Stanford Medicine, Soundcloud.com/Stanford.med
- Read: "A Peace Plan for a Safer America" – *MarchforOurLives.com*
- Read text: House Bill H.R. 8, "Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019" – *Congress.gov*
- Read: "'Don't Die I Say': 3 Poems on Gun Violence and Police Brutality" - *LitHub.com*, excerpted from *Bullets into Bells: Poets & Citizens Respond to Gun Violence*, Eds., Brian Clements, Alexandra Teague, and Dean Rader. New York: Beacon Press, 2017.
- Read: "How Catholic Leaders Helped Give Rise to Violence at the U.S. Capitol" – James Martin, S.J., *America, The Jesuit Review, AmericaMagazine.org*
- Read: "Insurrection" – Kathleen Belew, *Myth America, Historians Take on the Biggest Legends and Lies About Our Past* - New York: Basic Books, 2023.
- Listen to podcast: "The Paradox of American Freedom" - Sean Illig with Sebastian Junger, Vox.com, November, 2021.

April 25 Discussion of Response 12 materials

April 27 Discussion of Response 12 materials

May 2 Last class; discussion of Researched Argument sentences

May 7 **Researched Argument due on Canvas by 10:00 pm**