THEORIES OF CULTURAL STUDIES (ITB 6100)
PhD in Cultural Studies
Department of Humanities & Social Sciences
Yildiz Technical University

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Course Description:

This course presents the students with an overview of classical and contemporary theories in cultural studies. The evolution of social & cultural theory from the eighteenth century onwards will be analyzed with reference to major themes during the term. The aim will be to understand and make sense of ‘cultural theory’ together with ‘social theory’ that seems to follow a different historical and thematic trajectory when compared to political theory, sociological theory or history of philosophy.

During the lecture we will attempt to comprehend the views of major theorists, their relation to other theories and the way in which certain concepts are covered and analyzed in their theories. Among the major themes that are relevant to our discussion with regards to social & cultural theory will be society, community, identity, difference, subjectivity, individual, culture, structure, agency, modernity, postmodernity and consumption.

As this is a must course for the PhD program it is an essential obligation and extremely important for the students to do all readings for each week before coming to class. All students are expected to attend each session and participate as much as possible to the discussions in class.

Grading System:

Final Exam: 40%
Midterm Exam: 40%
Presentation: 20%

Midterm Exam:

Midterm Exam will take place in the middle of the term with 2 or 3 questions to be answered in 2 hours.
**Final Exam:**

Final exam will take place at the end of the term and will be conducted in open-book take-home format. The students are expected to analyse and articulate the theories that have been covered during the term.

**Presentation:**

Each student will pick up a theory/theorist at the beginning of the term and make a presentation of one specific article or a combination of more than one article. The maximum duration for each presentation will be 30 minutes. The aim will be to **clearly summarize and review** the relevant readings in the light of all what we have seen in class so far.

**Weekly Schedule:**

**Week 1 – Cultural Studies and Theory: An Introduction**

*Key Thinker: Hall*

**DC, CC, K**

**Week 2 - British Culturalism**

*Key Thinkers: Arnold, Leavis, Thompson, Williams & Hoggart*

ICS (11-136), CTPC (18-60), CCT (1-56), CAS (xi-xviii), PCR (25-32), UL

**Week 3 - Classical Theories I**

*Key Thinkers: Marx & Durkheim*

WB, MVSI, ST (43-75), PCR (89-95), ST (76-111), WB (236-82), SHST (97-127)

**Week 4 - Classical Theories II**

*Key Thinkers: Weber & Simmel*

CTPM (22-36), WB (305-72), WB (205-35), ST (112-188)
Week 5 - *The Heritage of Hermeneutics and Social Action*

*Key Thinkers: Dilthey, Weber, Gadamer & Goffman*

**SHST** (128-170), **RGT** (21-39), **CTI** (58-73)

Week 6 - *Critical Theory*

*Key Thinkers: Adorno, Horkheimer, Benjamin, Freud, Fromm, Marcuse & Habermas*

**CST** (17-52), **HST** (179-200), **CT** (49-68), **RGT** (121-139), **BC** (228-46), **CSR** (31-41), **PCR** (103-8), **PCR** (96-102)

Week 7 - *After Marx: Ideology and Hegemony*

*Key Thinkers: Gramsci*

**SHST** (194-224), **CTI** (37-57), **ICS** (190-204), **GU** (161-74), **CD** (411-41)

Week 8 - *Structuralism & Poststructuralism*

*Key Thinkers: Saussure, Levi-Strauss, Barthes, Althusser, Lacan & Derrida*

**CTPC** (116-139), **CCT** (92-127), **BT** (39-80), **CTI** (97-132), **IC** (67-90)

Week 9 - *Critical Modernity: History, Subjectivity & Power*

*Key Thinkers: Foucault & Bourdieu*

**RGT** (65-82), **CT** (123-40), **BC** (207-27), **FR** (3-29), **CTI** (133-150), **CST** (122-154), **CT** (141-58), **BC** (274-309)

Week 10 – *Midterm Exam*
Week 11 – *What is Cultural Studies?*

*Key Thinkers: Hall, Grossberg, Morley, Miller & Garnham*

CSR (492-503), LG, TP, CSIQ (121-37), **CD (24-45)**

Week 12 - *The Birmingham School, Cultural Studies & Beyond*

*Key Thinkers: Hall, Hebdige, Morley, Willis & Gilroy*

CTI (151-166), CT (69-82), ICS (137-189), **PCR (285-93), PCR (355-71), PC (284-93), NSTR (427-34)**

Week 13 – *Cultural Studies & Cultural Theory: Discussion and Evaluation*

TMCS-1, TMCS-2, **K**
Reading List


BT Peter Barry, Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory. 2002.


CC Circuit of Culture (Chart).


**TMCS-1** Toby Miller on Cultural Studies *Interview*

**TMCS-2** Toby Miller on Cultural Studies, “CS: What It Is and What It Isn’t”


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*Shadowy Blue: Classical Texts in Cultural Studies*