CORE – GG2018
Popular Objects/
Popular Subjects
Spring 2013 Wednesdays, 6:20 – 8:20
One Washington Place, Room 401

Karen Hornick
kah3@nyu.edu / 212-998-7331

One Washington Place, Room 605
Office hours by appointment and
Tuesdays between 2 and 5:30

Apologia:

This is a class in individualized, interdisciplinary cultural analysis—but it should also appeal to the needs and interests of cultural makers. Most of our readings in this seminar are samplings from traditional and contemporary debates within the humanities and social sciences that deal, sometimes closely and sometimes tangentially (at first glance, anyway) with the way in which the word “culture” is used today to describe and explain a wide range of activities ranging from aesthetic judgment to political affiliation. The key word in the previous sentence was “samplings”—my goal in constructing this course was to provide a broad platform that will accommodate the wide range of interests and concentrations I expect to find among the students in this class. Thus, the syllabus includes: selections from grand philosophers such as Kant and Hume; full-length books published in recent decades that have been canonical, touchstones for almost everyone working with scholarly seriousness in the study of culture; primary materials including short stories, films, and television shows. The readings may sometimes be only of general interest and perhaps exclude arguments and modes that matter a lot to you as an individual, so your individual assignments and final project in particular are designed to encourage you to bring those issues to our table.

Assignments:

Two short response papers (see syllabus)

Two in-class presentations, 15 minutes maximum length, the first on a chosen topic and the second a report on your research for your final paper

One final paper, due at the end of the semester, 20 – 25 pages at length, on a topic you develop in consultation with me and the other students over the course of the semester.

Reading and Discussion Schedule:

N.B. All of the assigned books are readily available online or in local bookstores. I will supply you with pdf’s of the shorter readings.
PROSEMINAR SYLLABUS, SPRING 2013

January 30  Introductions; excerpt from Matthew Arnold, *Culture and Anarchy*

February 6  Immanuel Kant, “What is Enlightenment?”; David Hume, “Standards of Taste”; Carl Wilson, *Let’s Talk about Love*


RESPONSE PAPER DUE


February 27  Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms*; Willa Cather, “Paul’s Case” and “Coming, Aphrodite”

RESPONSE PAPER DUE

March 6  Stuart Hall, Selected Essays; Dick Hebdige, *Subculture: The Meaning of Style*


April 3  Linda Williams, *Playing the Race Card*

April 10  Fredric Jameson, “‘Postmodernism and Consumer Society’ and ‘Reification and Utopia in Mass Culture’”

April 17  Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*


May 1  Henry Jenkins, *Convergence Culture*

May 8  Conclusions

**NYU Plagiarism Policy:** “As a Gallatin student you belong to an interdisciplinary community of artists and scholars who value honest and open intellectual inquiry. This relationship depends on mutual respect, responsibility, and integrity. Failure to uphold these values will be subject to severe sanction, which may include dismissal from the University. Examples of behaviors that compromise the academic integrity of the Gallatin School include plagiarism, illicit collaboration, doubling or recycling coursework, and cheating. Please consult the Gallatin Bulletin or Gallatin website for a full description of the academic integrity policy.” [www.gallatin.nyu.edu/academics/policies/policy/integrity.html]