

## Liverpool John Moores University

Title: CULTURAL THEORY  
Status: Definitive  
Code: **4519CPACR** (100029)  
Version Start Date: 01-08-2011

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science  
Teaching School/Faculty: Accrington & Rossendale College

Team	Leader
Gareth Creer	Y

**Academic Level:** FHEQ4  
**Credit Value:** 20.00  
**Total Delivered Hours:** 44.00  
**Total Learning Hours:** 200  
**Private Study:** 156

### Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Runs Twice - S1 & S2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	14.000
Seminar	28.000
Tutorial	2.000

**Grading Basis:** 40 %

### Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	Seminar paper, presenting an analysis of a text of students' own choice (500-1000 words)	30.0	
Essay	AS2	Essay (1500-2000 words), exploring a text or texts, and/or theoretical paradigm/cultural debate in greater depth	70.0	

### Aims

*To provide students with a grounding in key cultural theories and debates relevant to both literary and media studies, and in the philosophical, ethical and political issues which they raise.*

*To explore links between literary theory and broader cultural theory.  
To promote dialogue between students of literary and media studies.*

## Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Describe key features of contemporary cultural theories and debates.
- 2 Apply cultural theory and critical method to the analysis of a range of texts in different media (e.g. literary, visual, musical)
- 3 Identify theoretical paradigms and ideological bias behind critical positions.

## Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Essay	1	2	
Essay	1	2	3

## Outline Syllabus

*The module focuses on the issue of 'mass' society and the debates concerning the nature of popular culture, the relationship between 'high' and 'low' culture, and the relationship between culture and society. Beginning with Matthew Arnold, it explores the assumptions behind Liberal Humanism and draws links between Leavisism and Reith's BBC. It then introduces Marxism and Neo-Marxism, the Frankfurt School and Cultural Populism, as well as introducing structuralism and post-structuralism (starting with Saussure). Finally, it touches on postmodernism. These different theoretical positions are explored practically, in the analysis (linked to the broader cultural debates) of a range of texts in different media such as literature, film and music.*

## Learning Activities

Lectures, seminars, tutorials, private study.

## References

<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	Storey, J
<b>Publishing Year</b>	2006
<b>Title</b>	Cultural Theory and Popular Culture
<b>Subtitle</b>	
<b>Edition</b>	

<b>Publisher</b>	Prentice Hall
<b>ISBN</b>	

<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	Storey, J
<b>Publishing Year</b>	1999
<b>Title</b>	Cultural Consumption and Everyday Life
<b>Subtitle</b>	
<b>Edition</b>	
<b>Publisher</b>	Arnold
<b>ISBN</b>	

<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	Strinati, D
<b>Publishing Year</b>	2002
<b>Title</b>	An Introduction to Theories of Popular Culture
<b>Subtitle</b>	
<b>Edition</b>	
<b>Publisher</b>	Routledge
<b>ISBN</b>	

<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	Docker, J
<b>Publishing Year</b>	1994
<b>Title</b>	Postmodernism and Popular Culture
<b>Subtitle</b>	
<b>Edition</b>	
<b>Publisher</b>	Cambridge UP
<b>ISBN</b>	

<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	Easthope, A and McGowan, K eds
<b>Publishing Year</b>	1992
<b>Title</b>	A Critical and Cultural Theory Reader
<b>Subtitle</b>	
<b>Edition</b>	
<b>Publisher</b>	Open University Press
<b>ISBN</b>	

## Notes

This module is designed to meet the needs and interests of students on the English degree and those on the Film, Broadcasting and Communications degree, equally, and to explore links, continuities and differences between the two disciplines. We will focus on theoretical issues and debates that have been drawn upon by scholars working in Literary Studies, Media Studies, and in the broader field of Cultural

Studies – such as the "high / low culture" debate, Marxism and Neo-Marxism, Structuralism and Post-Structuralism, Modernism and Postmodernism. This will build on material discussed in first-semester modules, and aim to lay foundations for later stages of both degrees, including the final-year dissertation. We will also explore ways of applying these theories and debates to the critical analysis of texts of various kinds. For practical classroom exercises we will use texts from a range of media, including literature, film, and music. For essays and seminar papers, students will use texts of their own choice.