

Comparative Ethnic Cultures

HSS 324 A, Spring 2023

TThurs 2:00 to 3:15
College of Arts and Letters
Stevens Institute of Technology

Kyungtek(KT) Chun, Ph.D.
e-mail: kchun@stevens.edu

Office Hours: TThurs 10:00 to 11:00 A.M. or by appointment

Course Description:

This course will explore the concept of culture and the nature of its linkage with the social world, attempt to enhance our understanding of seemingly structural issues such as poverty or ethnicity by applying cultural analysis to these issues, and broaden our cultural and social horizons so that we may operate effectively in the global economy and international culture of 21st century.

We will also look into diverse aspects of different culture to have a better and deeper understanding of the global culture we live in.

CAL Objectives

1. Students will demonstrate and practice good global citizenship.
2. Students will demonstrate their ability to connect their understanding of social science to the study of science and/or technology.
3. Students will have a wider and deeper understanding of not lonely their culture but also other cultures.
4. Students will demonstrate writing and/or public speaking skills.
5. Students will demonstrate leadership and teamwork skills.

Social Sciences Program Outcomes

1.Theoretical foundation. The student will understand the underlying theories and methods used in political science, psychology, and sociology and be able to apply them in individual and team directed research.

2.Historical foundation. The student will understand the evolution of the disciplines of the social sciences in concrete cause and effect relationships and be able to discern schools of interpretation over time.

3.Research. The student will be able to design and conduct research in the social sciences using appropriate theories for the disciplines of political science, psychology and sociology. Quantification techniques as well as theoretical constructs will be employed in doing thesis research and data collection.

4.Tools. The student will be proficient in computing technologies necessary for the

specific discipline.

5. Professionalism. The student will achieve a high degree of knowledge, accountability, and where warranted, certification in professional practice.

Course Outcomes:

After taking this course, students will be able to

1. understand the relationship between culture and society (10);
2. explain the similarities and differences of various ethnic cultures in the U.S. (10);
3. understand the basic concept of culture (10)
4. improve their understanding of the world (10)
5. practice the understanding of culture to everyday life (10).

Required Books:

Griswold, Wendy. 2013. *Cultures and Societies in a Changing World* (4th ed.). Pine Forge Press. ISBN: 9781412990547

Other readings (journal articles and book chapters) will be made available via Canvas. I may add some more reading materials on the moodle which are not listed on the syllabus.

Course Requirement:

You must fulfill ALL of the following requirements to complete this course. A Non-submission of any one of the requirements can result in a failing grade for the course. The submission itself does not guarantee a passing grade (In other words, you may receive zero points for an assignment if your work is not at a passable level). Your course grade will be determined by the sum of your performances in these requirements. Feel free to come and discuss with me early on to develop strategies to improve your grades.

You will not get a good grade (A or A-) if you are absent more than 3 times without providing proper documentation. You are expected to get actively involved with our class discussion in the class. You are allowed, at most, 2 absences if you can provide me with proper document explaining your absence. If you miss more than 2 classes, there will be 30 points deductions for each additional absence. (10% of grade).

I may give you a chance to do extra credit work only if I am convinced that you are serious about your study. An extra credit work doesn't guarantee the change of your overall grade.

Grading Scale

A	93-100
A-	92-90
B+	89-86
B	85-83
B-	82-78
C+	79-75
C	74-70
C-	69-60

- D 59-55
F 54 and below

Determination of Grade:

1. Two Examinations.....50% of the grade
2. Group Presentation..... 30% of the grade
3. Class participation, quiz, attendance, and assignment----- 20% of the grade

Exams

50% Two Exams (25% each)

The exams measure your understanding of class materials (including whether you actually read the assigned textbook chapter), and your ability to critically discuss issues reviewed in class. The exam will consist of mostly essay questions.

20% Class Participation, Quiz, Assignment, and Attendance

Active class participation is necessary. I encourage everybody to engage in debate and ask questions if any of the topics we discuss in class are not clearly understood. Attendance is very important for this class. We will also have a small group presentation in each class. And your group is required to respond to each presentation. Lateness and inappropriate behavior during class hours will result in the deduction of points toward the final grade. Excessive use of a laptop except for taking a note during class will result in a deduction of points(10 points for each violation)---I will check it by asking questions, and you must be able to answer my questions. If you are presenting, you can use the content of a group presentation to fulfill an assignment (each group member can post the same content the group presented). I may have a quiz unannounced if I suspect you are not doing a reading.

30% Group or Individual Presentation (3-5 people)

You will be required to present the topic assigned as a group. You are encouraged to use examples or cases (newsworthy event) relevant to your topic and lead a class discussion. Your group's score will be notified at the completion of all other group presentations. Each member of group should prepare, at least, 4-5 PP slides. If you are presenting as an individual, you will have to use 8 to 10 PP slides. PP slides should include 1) introduction 2) main thesis 3) conclusion 4) reference.

Honor Board Policies:

Enrollment into the undergraduate class of Stevens Institute of Technology signifies a student's commitment to the Honor System. It is the responsibility of each student to become acquainted with and to uphold the ideals set forth in the Honor System Constitution. Specific student responsibilities include: Maintaining honesty and fair play in all aspects of academic life at Stevens; Writing and signing the pledge, in full, on all submitted academic work; Reporting any suspected violations to an Honor Board member or to the Dean of Student Development; Cooperating with the Honor Board during investigations and hearings.

The pledge signifies that the work submitted by a student is indeed his/her own. There is one designated pledge to be used for tests, homework assignments, lab reports, and computer projects. The pledge shall be written in full and signed by the student on all submitted academic work. Any references used (including texts, tutors, classmates, etc.) should be listed below the written pledge: "I pledge my honor that I have abided by the Stevens Honor System."

Students with Disabilities:

If you require special accommodations due to a disability, or if you need individual arrangements should the building be evacuated, you must inform the office of Student Counseling and Psychological Services in the Howe Center, 7th floor, and ask that he inform the instructor as early as possible.

The syllabus content can be changed at the discretion of the instructor.

The articles assigned are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1(January19-24) *Course Introduction: Understanding the Culture*
Griswold, preface & Ch. 1

Week 2 (January 22-31) Griswold, Ch. 2

Week 3(Feb. 2-7) Griswold, Ch. 3

Week 4 (Feb.9-14) Griswold, Ch. 4

Week 5 (Feb.16-21) Griswold, Ch. 5

Week 6(Feb. 23-28) Griswold, Ch. 6

Week 7 (March 2-7) Griswold, Ch. 7 **Review of Exam, First Exam**

Week 8 (March 9) Griswold, Ch. 8

Week 9 (March14-16) **Spring Break**

Week 10 (March 21-23) Parasecoli F. 2014. "Food, Identity, and Cultural Reproduction in Immigrant Communities." *Social Research*. 81(2):415-439.

Week 11(March 28-March 30) Parasecoli F. 2014. "Food, Identity, and Cultural Reproduction in Immigrant Communities." *Social Research*. 81(2):415-439.

Reflection of the article and presentation of a specific case will be followed.

Week 12 (April 4-6) Park, Yoosun, James Quin, Karen Florez, Judith Jacobson, Kathryn Neckerman, Andrew Rundle 2011. "Hispanic immigrant women's perspective on healthy foods and the New York City retail food environment: A mixed-method study" *Social Science & Medicine* Volume: 73 Issue 1

Reflection of the article and presentation of a specific case will be followed.

Week 13(April 11-13) **Group Presentation**

Week 14(April 18-20) **Group Presentation**

Week 15 (April 25-27) **Review of Exam 2**

May 4 The last of the class, **Exam 2**

Term Paper is due by the same day of exam 2.