

## **ANT 305 – Introduction to Expressive Culture, Fall 2018**

### **Chris Farrell**

Mondays & Wednesdays 9am-10am

Class location: RLP (formerly CLA) 0.112

Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 10am-11pm, SAC 5.114

Discussion Sections:

| Unique Number | Time and Location            | Teaching Assistant |
|---------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 31610         | Friday, 9am-10am, JES A203A  | Ana Maria Navas    |
| 31615         | Friday, 10am-11am, JES A218A | Ana Maria Navas    |
| 31620         | Friday, 11am-12pm, JES A218A | Jesus Nazario      |
|               |                              |                    |

Your teaching assistants will be available during the following office hours to discuss matters relating to the course:

Ana Maria Navas: Fridays, 11.30am-1.30pm

Jesus Nazario: Fridays, 12.30pm-2.30pm

### **Course description**

This course is an introduction to the study of culture through expressive media. Stories and other kinds of narrative media are treated as important cultural objects which are at once representative and productive of a society's values, identities, practices, anxieties, and ideals. By considering stories in context, and by addressing both the intended and unintended consequences of their dissemination, students will be encouraged to think about the role of narrative in everyday life in a number of cultural settings.

### **Readings and classroom dynamic**

Readings are outlined in the course schedule below, and will all be available either as PDFs on Canvas or through the UT library online. There is no course packet for this course. Students will be expected to arrive in class having read the assigned readings for that day. Classes on Mondays and Wednesdays will largely be traditional 'lectures', while your Friday sections will take the form of whole-class discussions. You must come prepared to discuss the course materials in these sections. Discussions will focus on the readings and the media you will consume during the Tuesday and Thursday night screenings, and will at times address sensitive and controversial themes. As such it is imperative that students engage with one another in a respectful and measured way. The best way to ensure the classroom dynamic remains respectful is to come to class prepared, so **do the reading**.

## **Assessment**

This course will be assessed through the completion of the following:

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Attendance –                | 5%  |
| Participation –             | 10% |
| First group presentation –  | 10% |
| Second group presentation – | 15% |
| First in-class exam –       | 15% |
| Second in-class exam –      | 15% |
| Final Assignment –          | 30% |

## **Grade Boundaries**

The grade boundaries for this course will be as follows:

80-82 is a B - (minus)

83-86 is a B

87-89 is a B + (plus)

Grades will follow this pattern for all grades except for As. There are no A + grades at the University of Texas. Decimal places greater than .75 may be rounded up at the Teaching Assistant's discretion.

There will be no opportunities for 'extra credit' in this class. Please do not bother your TAs with requests for extra credit, as they will have neither the authority nor the inclination to help you.

## **Group presentations**

These presentations will be graded based on the overall quality of the group's work. All students in one group will received the same grade, unless there are notable extenuating circumstances. This is non-negotiable. All students must contribute to the project, in both the planning and execution stages, or else the grades of everyone in the group will suffer. These presentations may be delivered in video form, at the discretion of your assigned Teaching Assistant.

## **Examinations**

There will be two in-class examinations over the course of the semester. These exams will encompass material that has been covered previously in the course. Students will be expected to apply knowledge gleaned from lectures, discussions, and readings, rather than simply regurgitating it.

## **Attendance and participation**

Attendance is, of course, mandatory. Two unexcused absences from discussion sections will be allowed (and will not affect your grade), but all other absences must be either pre-arranged with the professor or TA, or explained after the fact with a suitable excuse and some form of official documentation. After those two unexcused absences you will be docked two percentage points from your attendance grade per class missed. Should you miss more than the five classes it would require for you to receive an attendance score of zero, you would be docked 5% per subsequent class missed from your final grade, and would also receive a participation score of zero.

If you have a prior engagement or scheduling conflict on the day of a discussion section, an in-class exam, or a group presentation, you must let the professor or your TA know *well in advance*, so that other arrangements can be made, or else your grade may be affected.

Participation in in-class discussions and group work will also have a significant bearing on a student's grade. A good attendance record will naturally be required for students to achieve full credit for participation, but you will also be expected to contribute regularly to discussion (having done the reading), and to work well with your peers in the production of effective group presentations.

## **Tuesday and Thursday Evening Media Screenings**

On weeks with assigned media, students will be required to either attend the screenings provided or to watch/listen to the assigned pieces of expressive culture in their own time *prior to attending discussion sections*. It is advised that students attend the media screenings, as some of the media objects we will be discussing in class are either difficult or expensive to obtain outside of class. Should a student arrive in discussion section multiple times clearly having not watched or listened to the assigned media, both their attendance and participation grades will suffer.

Media screenings will be held on:

Tuesdays at 7pm, in BUR 208

Thursdays at 6pm, in RLM 7.104

## **Final Assignment**

The final assignment will be a cumulative take-home essay. The essay question will be explained in lecture on December 5<sup>th</sup>, and elaborated upon in discussion sections on the 7<sup>th</sup>. The assignment will be submitted via Canvas.

## Students with disabilities

Accommodation will be made for students with disabilities in accordance with whatever arrangements a student has in place with the Office for Students with Disabilities. Please provide your Teaching Assistant with documentation of these arrangements as soon as possible. Please do not wait until immediately before an exam to speak with your professor or TA about this matter.

## Academic integrity

Students who violate University rules on academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, please visit the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity website at:

<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct>.

Students will be expected to collaborate within their groups in the production of group presentations, but in all other forms of assessment any work submitted by a student must be the student's own work.

## Course Schedule

### Week One                      August 27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>

Wed 29<sup>th</sup>                      Introduction and course syllabus review.

### Week Two                      September 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>

Mon 3<sup>rd</sup>                      Labor Day, no class.

Wed 5<sup>th</sup>                      Read: Bettelheim, B. 1977. *The Uses of Enchantment*, 3-19 & 159-166.

### Week Three                      September 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>

Mon 10<sup>th</sup>                      Read: Zipes, J. 1997. *Happily Ever After*, 39-60.

Wed 12<sup>th</sup>                      Read: Warner, M. 1994. *From the Beast to the Blonde*, 200-240.

### Week Four                      September 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>

Mon 17<sup>th</sup>                      Read: Wilson Wilson, W.A. 1973. *Herder, Folklore and Romantic Nationalism*, 19-35.

Wed 19<sup>th</sup>                      Read: Hobsbawm and Ranger. 1983. *The Invention of Tradition*, 1-14 & 263-279.

First group presentation to be delivered in discussion sections on Friday 21<sup>st</sup>.

### Week Five                      September 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>

Mon 24<sup>th</sup>                      Review lecture. No required reading.

Wed 26<sup>th</sup>                      First midterm examination in class.

**Week Six                      October 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>**

Mon 1<sup>st</sup>                      Read: Crisp, J.E. 2005. *Sleuthing the Alamo*, 78-98.

Wed 3<sup>rd</sup>                      Read: Wetta & Novelli. 2016. *Last Stands from the Alamo to Benghazi*, 130-136.

Screening of *The Alamo* (1960) on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

**Week Seven                      October 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

Mon 8<sup>th</sup>                      Read: Fahey, A.C. 2007. *French and Feminine*, 132-150.

Wed 10<sup>th</sup>                      Read: Lowndes, J. 2013. *Barack Obama's Body*, 469-498.

Screening of *Air Force One* (1997) on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

**Week Eight                      October 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>**

Mon 15<sup>th</sup>                      No lecture. No new reading.

Wed 17<sup>th</sup>                      No lecture. No new reading.

Screening of *White House Down* (2013) on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

**Week Nine                      October 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>**

Mon 22<sup>nd</sup>                      Read: Glenn & Speldenner. 2013. *An Intersectional Analysis of African American Women with African American Men on "the Down Low"*, 401-414.

Wed 24<sup>th</sup>                      Read: Stoddard, Marcus & Hicks. 2014. *The Burden of Historical Representation*, 9-36.

Screening of *The Only Good Indian* (2009) on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

**Week Ten                      October 29<sup>th</sup>-November 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Mon 29<sup>th</sup>                      Read: Robins, M.B. 2003. *'Lost Boys' and the promised land*, 29-49.

Wed 31<sup>st</sup>                      Read: Tyree, Byerly & Hamilton. 2011. *Representations of (new) Black masculinity: A news-making case study*, 467-480.

Second group presentation to be delivered in discussion sections on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Week Eleven                      November 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>**

Mon 5<sup>th</sup>                      Read: Geertz, C. 1973. *Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight*, 412-453.

Wed 7<sup>th</sup>                      Read: Guinness & Besnier. 2016. *Nation, Nationalism, and Sport*, 1109-1136.

**Week Twelve                      November 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>**

Mon 12<sup>th</sup>                      Read the articles on the following web pages:  
<http://www1.cbn.com/onlinediscipleship/harry-potter-controversy> **AND**  
<https://christiananswers.net/q-eden/harrypotter.html>

Wed 14<sup>th</sup>      Read: TBA

Screening of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* (2001) on Tuesday and Thursday.

**Week Thirteen      November 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>**

Mon 19<sup>th</sup>      Review lecture

Wed 21<sup>st</sup>      Second midterm examination in class.

**Week Fourteen      November 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>**

Mon 26<sup>th</sup>      Read: Dill, Brown & Collins. 2008. *Effects of exposure to sex-stereotyped video game characters on tolerance of sexual harassment*, 1402-1408.

Wed 28<sup>th</sup>      Read: DeVane & Squire. 2008. *The Meaning of Race and Violence in Grand Theft Auto*, 264-285.

**Week Fifteen      December 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>**

Mon 3<sup>rd</sup>      Read: Kiilakoski & Oksanen. 2011. *Soundtrack of the School Shootings: Cultural Script, Music and Male Rage*, 247-269.

Wed 5<sup>th</sup>      Explanation of Final Assignment and dissemination of essay question.

Listening party for *The Downward Spiral* (1994), by Nine Inch Nails on Tuesday and Thursday.

**Week Sixteen      December 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>**

Mon 10<sup>th</sup>      Question and Answer session to help with Final Assignment.

Wed 12<sup>th</sup>      Final Assignment due 11.59pm.