

Culture / Theory I (Tue 14.45-16.15) Dr. Susanne Klien *SCS 219 Active learning room*

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Send a message confirming that you attend this course and intend to take credits.

This course has a capacity for 20 students, students will be admitted on a first come, first served basis.

Check my homepage <https://github.com/susanneklien/susanneklien.github.io> regularly for updates about the course and information on credits and exams.

Session dates and schedule

9 April **Introduction**: Explain basics about the course, introduction of self and students

16 April **Public / private** / Text: Caitlin Meagher “Constructing an Interior Public: uchi and soto in the Japanese sharehouse”, *Home Cultures* 14(2): 113-36, 2017.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/17406315.2017.1373442>

23 April **Interpretation of cultures** / Text: Clifford Geertz “Thick description: Toward an interpretive theory of culture” (Chapter 1)

<https://www.ics.uci.edu/~corps/phaseii/Geertz-ThickDescription.pdf>

7 May **Subjects, bodies, selves** / Text: Takeyama Akiko “Commodified romance in a Tokyo host club” <https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/handle/1885/8679>

14 May **Globalization** / Text: Gordon Mathews, *Ghetto at the Center of the World: Chungking Mansions, Hong Kong* (Chapter One and Five), University of Chicago Press 2011.

21 May **Mobility** / Text: Thomas Hylland Eriksen, *Globalization: The Key Concepts* (Chapter Five “Movement”), 2nd edition, London: Bloomsbury 2014

28 May **Identity and difference** / Text: Stuart Hall “Introduction: Who needs identity” and Zygmunt Bauman “From Pilgrim to Tourist: A Short History of Identity” in Stuart Hall, Paul du Gay (eds.), *Questions of Cultural Identity*, London: Sage 1996.

4 June **Mid-term exam** (two short essays on themes discussed in class)

11 June **Risk** / Text: Ulrich Beck “Living in the World Risk Society”

- <https://doi.org/10.1080/03085140600844902>

18 June **Representation and the male gaze** / Text:

<https://mccormackbirdmedia.wordpress.com/2015/02/24/method-2-feminism-laura-mulvey-and-the-male-gaze/>

[optional: –<http://www.uvm.edu/~tstreete/powerpose/onview.html>

Tom Streeter “A Web Essay on the Male Gaze, Fashion Advertising, and the Pose”]

25 June **Culture and structure** / Text: Marshall Sahlins “Two or Three Things that I Know about Culture,” *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, Vol. 5, No.3 (Sept. 1999): 399-421. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2661275>

2 July *Reading week*

9 July **History, memory, representation** / Text: Debate “The past is a foreign country” in Tim Ingold (ed.), *Key Debates in Anthropology*, London: Routledge 1996, p. 161-200.

16 July **Resistance** / Text: Johansson/Vinthagen “Dimensions of Everyday Resistance: An Analytical Framework,” *Critical Sociology*, Vol. 42 (3) 2016: 417-435.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/0896920514524604>

23 July **Affect and neoliberalism** / Text: Lauren Berlant, *Cruel Optimism*, Durham, US: Duke University Press, Introduction: Affect in the Present and Chapter One: Cruel Optimism, pp. 1-49.

30 July *Final exam*

In order to obtain credits for this course you need to:

1. Sign up for an individual or team presentation (2-3 students) on a topic related to one of the sessions (10-15 minutes for individual, 20-25 minutes for team presentations).
2. Pass mid-term (two short essays) and final test (one longer essay)
3. Sign up as the discussant of session text 1-2 times (5-10 minute critical input starting off the discussion in class)
4. Actively participate throughout the course (three absences accepted) and send in 2-3 questions for discussion about the session text by the day 6pm before the course (e-mail).

If you have any questions, e-mail me any time or come to see me before/after class.

Looking forward to working with you throughout the term!