

COURSE INFORMATION GUIDE

CHYS 3P32, Children, Youth, and Popular Culture

Important: The information contained in this guide is not equivalent to the course syllabus. It is intended to provide students with more information about scheduled courses than is provided through the undergraduate calendar. Keep in mind that it is prepared well in advance of the final courses preparation and merely provides an early idea about course objectives, content, and structure. In some cases this guide may be based on a previous year's course and not be reflective of the coming year's offering. Do not purchase texts or acquire readings based on the information guide.

Instructor: Shauna Pomerantz

Course Description:

In this course we will explore a range of popular cultural forms, from television to film to music to magazines to toys to advertisements to the Internet. In these explorations we will always keep children and youth in the forefront of our discussions through three guiding questions: 1) How are children and youth represented in popular culture? 2) How do children and youth consume popular culture? And 3) How do children and youth use popular culture to negotiate and construct their identities? In focusing on these three questions, we will navigate the vast terrain



of popular culture theoretically (how can popular culture be read, analyzed, and interpreted?) and practically (how is popular culture used and enjoyed as a form of pleasure?). Topics to be covered include: the history of popular culture, mass culture and the culture industry, representation (gender, race, class, and sexuality), identity (individual and collective), consumption (buying, branding, and bricolage), subculture, globalization, and postmodern influences.

Course Objectives:

In this course, students will learn to debate the significance of popular culture in relation to young people. They will learn to critically analyze popular culture by exploring it as a text that constructs gender, race, ethnicity, class, and sexuality. Student will learn various theories that will enable them to discuss popular culture, including structuralism, post-structuralism, feminism, and Marxism.

Course Evaluation: Not available at this time.

Additional Information: This course does not use seminars but engages in a form of large-class participation called salons. Salon groups are formed at the beginning of term and stay the same throughout the term. Students will receive a group participation mark within their salon groups.