

STS 6534

Spring 1996

CULTURAL STUDIES OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND MEDICINE

Gary Downey, Lane 332, Hours: M&W 2:15-3:30 or by appt., phone 231-4761

SYLLABUS

Course Description: This course surveys approaches to the cultural study of science, technology, and medicine in a search for ways of understanding and intervening in how science, technology, and medicine participate in everyday life. The course focuses on exchanges of metaphors and forms of discourse across the boundaries between science/technology/medicine and other cultural activities. Topics include knowledge forms in popular domains, cultural performances of science, fashioning of selves, power relations across boundaries, cross-cultural comparisons, and cultural critiques. What contributions can cultural studies of science, technology, and medicine make to both academic theorizing and popular theorizing?

Course Requirements: The class consists of discussions of class readings, lectures, and a series of writing assignments. Your major responsibility is to keep up with the reading assignments. Come to class ready to raise and answer questions and to discuss the material. The final grade is based on both your level of performance and your level of commitment to the learning process.

Writing assignments include preparing weekly outlines of readings, a two-page account of your research, two three-page accounts of how cultural studies work might contribute to your field, a three-page account of a key concept, and a three-page account of some approach to intervention. In order to maximize collaboration with other students, please bring sufficient copies of each assignment for everyone (use front and back or recycled paper) and read each assignment aloud in class (not including outlines).

Required Materials

Simon During, The Cultural Studies Reader
David Hess, Science and Technology in a Multicultural World
Dorinne Kondo, Crafting Selves
Emily Martin, The Woman in the Body
Mark Seltzer Bodies and Machines

Schedule

Jan 18 Wk 1 Introduction: The Argument

The main claim in this course is that further development of research and writing in cultural studies can contribute to reformulating how academic theorizing contributes to and participates in everyday life. A key challenge in this respect is to come up with new ways of theorizing how sciences, technologies, and medicines are located in everyday life and of what might constitute participation and intervention in these relations. The course thus consists of a collective search for concepts and strategies that might make a difference, with a minimum of academic jargon.

Part I: How Should I Think and Write about Everyday Life?

Jan 25 Wk 2 Selves as multiple, gendered, and crafted in contexts of power

Reading: Dorinne Kondo, Crafting Selves: Power, Gender, and Discourses of Identity in a Japanese Workplace [select and read a minimum of five chapters; submit list in

class]

Writing: Prepare a detailed outline of one assigned chapter to be combined with outlines of other chapters.

Feb 1 Wk 3 Theory and method in cultural studies

Reading: Simon During, The Cultural Studies Reader (Simon During, Theodor Adorno/Max Horkheimer, Roland Barthes, Teresa de Lauretis, Stuart Hall, Michele Wallace, Michel de Certeau)

Writing: (1) Prepare detailed outline of one assigned chapters. (2) First third of class prepare a two-page account of likely thesis research, concluding with a paragraph of questions about how cultural studies of science, technology, and medicine might be relevant.

Feb 8 Wk 4 Rethorizing the cultural arenas of nation, ethnicity and multiculturalism, sexuality, and carnival and utopia

Reading: Simon During, The Cultural Studies Reader (David Forgacs, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak/Sneja Gunew, Cornel West, Andrew Ross, Richard Dyer, Peter Stallybrass/Allon White)

Writing: (1) Prepare detailed outline of one assigned chapter. (2) Second third of class prepare a two-page account of likely thesis research, concluding with a paragraph of questions about how cultural studies of science, technology, and medicine might be relevant.

Feb 15 Wk 5 Rethorizing the cultural arenas of consumption and the market, leisure, and media

Reading: Simon During, The Cultural Studies Reader (Meaghan Morris, Raymond Williams, Pierre Bourdieu, Dick Hebdige, Will Straw, Ien Ang, Armand Mattelart/Xavier Deicourt/Michele Mattelart, and Janice Radway)

Writing: (1) Prepare detailed outline of one assigned chapter. (2) Final third of class prepare a two-page account of likely thesis research, concluding with a paragraph of questions about how cultural studies of science, technology, and medicine might be relevant.

Part II: How Should I Think and Write about Boundaries and Selves in S/T/M?

Feb 22 Wk 6 Bodies and Medicine

Reading: Emily Martin, The Woman in the Body (first half)

Writing: (1) Prepare detailed outline of one assigned chapter. (2) First third of class prepare a three-page account of how cultural studies approaches might contribute insights in one's field of research.

Feb 29 Wk 7 Bodies and Medicine

Reading: Emily Martin, The Woman in the Body (second half)

Writing: (1) Prepare detailed outline of one assigned chapter. (2) Second third of class prepare a three-page account of how cultural studies approaches might contribute insights in one's field of research.

Mar 7 Wk 8 Bodies and Machines

Reading: Michael Seltzer, Bodies and Machines (first half)

Writing: (1) Prepare detailed outline of one assigned chapter. (2) Final third of class prepare a three-page account of how cultural studies approaches might contribute insights in one's field of research.

Mar 14 Wk 9 Bodies and Machines

Reading: Michael Seltzer, Bodies and Machines (second half)

Writing: (1) Prepare detailed outline of one assigned chapter. (2) First third of class prepare three-page account of key concept or strategy, selected from accumulated list. The purpose of this assignment is to contribute to cultural studies, drawing on your background. Further directions will be distributed in class.

Mar 21 Wk 10 Cultural Boundaries of Science

Reading: David Hess, Science and Technology in a Multicultural World (first half)

Writing: (1) Prepare detailed outline of one assigned chapter. (2) Second third of class prepare three-page account of key concept or strategy, selected from accumulated list. [The purpose of this assignment is to contribute to cultural studies of s/t/m, drawing on your background. Further directions will be distributed in class.]

Mar 28 Wk 11 Cultural Boundaries of Science

Reading: David Hess, Science and Technology in a Multicultural World (second half)

Writing: (1) Prepare detailed outline of one assigned chapter. Bring sufficient copies for everyone. (2) Final third of class prepare three-page account of key concept, selected from accumulated list.

Part III: How Should I Think and Write about Emergence and Intervention in S/T/M?

Apr 4 Wk 12 Approaches to Intervention

Reading: Collection of readings to be announced

Writing: (1) Prepare detailed outline of one assigned reading. (2) First third of class prepare three-page account of an approach to intervention selected from list.

Apr 11 Wk 13 Intervention through Situated Knowledges?

Reading: Collection of readings by Donna Haraway in anticipation of her Mullins Lecture on Monday April 22.

Writing: (1) Prepare detailed outline of one assigned reading. (2) Second third of class prepare three-page account of an approach to intervention selected from list.

Apr 22 Wk 14 Special Class with Donna Haraway

Reading/Writing: Each student prepares two questions to ask Donna Haraway in class.

Apr 25 Wk 15 Approaches to Intervention

Reading: Collection of readings to be announced

Writing: (1) Prepare detailed outline of one assigned reading. (2) Second third of class prepare three-page account of an approach to intervention selected from list.

Exam Week: Submit rewritten version of three-page account of how cultural studies might contribute to your field.