

Introduction to Culture Studies

2017-Spring
Wed. & Fri., 9:00-10:30
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Description

As it has evolved from a history of ideas in philosophy and anthropology, this course is an introduction to contemporary cultural studies. It focuses on theories of culture and their practical application, focusing on not only what these theories could offer a business environment but also what management theories of organizational culture could contribute to cultural studies as an interdisciplinary social science.

Objectives

The course provides a foundation for critically understanding culture, enabling students to think about it and management in innovative ways. By the end of the course, students will be able to apply the knowledge they have gained by:

- Comprehending the history, aims and scope of cultural studies
- Perceiving and interpreting culture with a depth-of-understanding
- Developing a capacity for social scientific inquiry
- Understanding interdisciplinary relationships with management

Expectations

Students should demonstrate high level of professionalism. Participation is a significant part of student evaluation, which includes preparedness for all in-class activities by completing all reading assignments. The course includes two quizzes to be calculated as part of the midterm. The midterm will be verbal, involving a presentation on a student's plan and progress for the final paper. The final exam will be a research paper of 3-5 pages on a cultural topic relevant to organizations and society. Any form of cheating, particularly plagiarism, are a serious offence and will be dealt with in accordance with SolBridge policy. Attendance is mandatory and excuses must also follow university policies.

Evaluation

Attendance _____	20%
Participation & Homework _____	20%
Quizzes _____	10%
Midterm _____	10%
Final _____	40%

Curve: **A0-A+** ≤ 30% of students || **B0-B+** ≤ 40% of students || **D0-C+** ≥ 30% of students || **F** = Total score below 50%, ≥33% absence, or proven cheating.

Less than 15 students: **A0-A+** ≤ 50% of students || **B0-B+** ≤ 50% of students

Materials

- *Cultural Studies: Theory and Practice* by Barker, C. (SAGE, 2007)
- *Organizational Culture and Leadership* by Schein, E.H. (Wiley & Sons, 2010).
- Supplemental materials will also be provided through Google Drive

Overview

Week 1 – 2: Introduction

- Introduction to Cultural Studies
- Management and Culture

Week 3 – 6: Theoretical Foundations

- Ideology
- Meaning and Language
- Identity, Gender, and Subjectivity
- Ethnicity, Race, and Nation
- Culture and Philosophy of Science

Quiz on Week Four

Week 7 – 11: Applying Knowledge

- World Order and Organization
- Urban Spaces
- Digital Media
- Youth Culture
- Politics

Midterm on Week Eight

Quiz on Week Ten

Week 12 – 14: Organizational Contexts

- Defining Organizational Culture
- Dimensions of Culture
- Culture and Leadership

Week 15: Review and Final

Participation and Homework (20%)

Participation will be recorded every day as a 0, 1, or 2. Any student that is late, fails to follow the lesson or is generally not engaged gets a 0 for the day. Students that answer questions when prompted, demonstrate average commitment and volunteer answers receive a 1, and those that actively participate by showing an above average engagement earn a 2 for the day. Participation involves being prepared – including having done reading assignments for which student will provide short responses on the discussion board. Verbal responses to the discussion board uploaded via smartphone have the potential to earn extra credit. The breakdown of the total 20% for Participation and Homework is as follows:

In-class Participation _____	10%
Reading Discussion Board _____	10%

Quizzes (10%)

Testing students on sociological concepts, the first quiz will be composed of traditional exam questions such as multiple choice, true or false, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer. The second will involve responding to a writing prompt about the course reading. Responses should be a short, three-paragraph essay. The writing of the second quiz will be graded on how well the student achieves on Task (25%), Vocabulary (25%), Coherency (25%), Grammar and Spelling (25%).

Midterm (10%)

Students will be expected to give a five-minute presentation on the topic he or she has chosen for the final writing assignment, summarizing their work and discussing the development of their ideas on their topic. Grading will be based on Task Achievement (25%), Fluency and Pronunciation (25%), Vocabulary (25%), and Grammar (25%). Topics for the final paper cannot be changed after the midterm exam – no exceptions will be made under any circumstances.

Final Exam (40%)

The final exam will be a research paper, which should be approximately 3-5 pages but no longer than 7 pages. Work on the essay should begin on day one of the semester and a hard copy of the finished essay will be due on the final day of class. Papers must be double-spaced with one-inch margins and use 12-point Times New Roman or Cambria font.

Students will choose topics related to their own particular interests, but the topic must address a cultural theme that is relevant to organizations and society. The topic will need to be approved by the instructor before the midterm exam. The final paper will be graded on Task Achievement (35%), Coherency and Cohesion (25%), Vocabulary (20%), and Grammar (20%). Students should be prepared to engage in a group discussion of the paper topics during the final week.

Attendance (20%)

As noted, attendance is mandatory and excuses must follow university policies. As one cannot participate when absent, students should also be aware that missing a class will impact their participation score for the semester.

Ethics

Academic dishonesty

Academic Dishonesty includes but not limited to: (a) cheating during examinations, (b) obtaining and using information for assignments and examinations through fraudulent means, and (c) false representation of others' effort as one's own.

Examples of academic dishonesty are copying from others during examinations, copying material from other students' work and submitting the same as one's own, and creating fictitious interview materials for assignments or reports.

Plagiarism

SolBridge considers plagiarism as a serious breach of professional ethics. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any form. Penalties can be as severe as expulsion from the university. To avoid plagiarism it always best to do your own work or cite the work of others appropriate. Per SolBridge policy and as stated in the Student Handbook:

1. The first instance of plagiarism will result in a "0" for the assignment in question and a report will be filed.
2. The second instance of plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the entire course.
3. The third instance will result in administrative action, which could include expulsion from the school.
4. The instructor will report each instance of plagiarism, academic dishonesty, or any other violation of SolBridge policy and rules to the disciplinary officer.

Textbooks and Supplementary Materials

In the case that any course at SolBridge requires a text, students are expected to purchase the book from the bookstore. Copying entire textbooks or misusing other copyrighted materials without permission of the publisher or author is tantamount to theft. Any additional supplementary material for this particular course is distributed under Free and Fair Use and Creative Commons copyright laws for educational purposes. None of it may be used for commercial purposes, and authors need be attributed with appropriate credit when altering or using their works.