

Course Outline for: SOC 1116 Popular Culture and Media Sociology**A. Course Description:**

1. Number of credits: 3
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
3. Prerequisites: None
4. Corequisites: None
5. MnTC Goals: Goal 5 History and the Social or Behavioral Sciences
 Goal 9 Ethical & Civic Responsibility

Using a sociological perspective, this course explores the diverse constructions of popular culture within the U.S. and selected parts of the world. An important component within this area of sociology addresses how mass media both reflect and influence popular cultural trends. This course is designed to increase students' abilities to understand, explain, and analyze popular culture via the lens of the sociological imagination, thus increasing their agency as social actors.

B. Date last reviewed/updated: January 2023**C. Outline of Major Content Areas:**

1. Sociological theories that are related to the issues of popular culture and media
2. Neo-liberalism and its influence on media and popular culture
3. Identity constructions as reflected in popular culture and mass media
4. Contemporary popular cultural trends
5. Human beings and our relationships to media technology
6. The culture industry
7. Ideologies and popular culture

D. Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain what is meant by the culture industry from a sociological perspective (Goal 2a, 5a)
2. Identify ideology within popular culture and media (Goal 2d, 9b)
3. Analyze subaltern popular cultural identity issues (Goal 5c, 9c)
4. Apply various sociological theories to popular culture and media content (2b, 5a, 5d)
5. Explain the connections between elite institutions and popular cultural expressions (2b, 2c, 5b, 9d)
6. Utilize insights gained from the course in order to promote social justice and ethical behavior in everyday life (2d, 9d, 9e)

E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning:

Assessment methods may include, but are not limited to: exams, quizzes, journals, research papers, oral presentations, written assignments, essays, group work and/or any other assessment measures based on the discretion of the instructor.

F. Special Information:

None