

## **British Youth Culture**

### **Spring 2007**

Course Code SOC1-23500-98

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### **Course Outline**

This course offers an insightful introduction into the complexities of British Youth Culture. A diverse range of themes will explore past and contemporary subcultures from Teddy Boys to Bling; and how young identities have been constructed in relation to mass media, the arts, society, politics, consumerism; and commodities such as music, fashion and technology. Current social issues such as multiculturalism, sexuality, drugs and the rise in gun culture will also be examined. There will be opportunities for students to contrast and compare their own experiences with those of British youth. Lectures will be supported with guest speakers, media resources and excursions.

### **Course Objectives**

On completion of the course students will be able to:

- 1) To gain a thorough, and varied insight into issues, concepts and writings which contribute to the central themes of British youth culture.
- 2) Ability to utilise different research methods and writing techniques.
- 3).To draw on different media and literature resources for written and oral work
- 4) Ability to draw on personal experience and how that can relate to wider debates on youth culture.
- 5) To compare and contrast similarities and differences between British and American youth culture

### **Class Organisation**

A variety of teaching methods are used to teach the syllabus, including: class discussions, media resources, research, and analytical exercises; formal input from the tutor as well as guest lectures and excursions.

You will be expected to attend all sessions unless there is a good reason for absence.

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a serious offence and will be dealt with severely. Students must not copy content from any source such as the internet and present it as their own work. All submitted work will be checked for plagiarism. Students must also ensure that sources such as publications, websites, and other forms of media are accurately cited.

- Quotations should be enclosed in quotation marks and referenced clearly with author, date and page.
- Paraphrased ideas should be stated in a language entirely different from the source.
- The bibliography should be provided with the assignment.

### **Assessment**

In keeping with the American system of higher education, grades are assigned to students on the basis of continuous assessment during the semester:

1. Class attendance/ participation	10%
2. Mid Term Test	20%
3. Literature and Film Review	20%
4. Class presentation	30%
5. Final test	20%

## **Assignments**

### **1. Mid Term Test**

All students will be expected to keep a weekly British Youth Culture journal. The journal entries should be typed and filed in an A4 ring binder folder. The entries should be mixture of:

- News about youth and your response to the article. Clippings can be added with entries. **It must not be a regurgitation of the news but your own original comments.**
- Sources used for journal must be clearly cited (title of newspaper, website address) and each entry must be dated
- Personal observations, thoughts (this includes first hand observations)
- Direct experience with British youth
- Comparisons to US youth culture
- Reviews on British fashion, music, and club scene.

You will be assessed on the above and how much commitment is put into the weekly journal. You will also graded on neat presentation this includes spelling, grammar and punctuation.

The journals are due in on **Thursday 1st March and will be returned back for you to continue until the end of term. The second due date for the journals is 26 April 2006 and will be returned on 3 May with an overall grade.**

### **2. Literature and film review (2000 words)**

Write a comparative critique on *Trainspotting*, examining how the book and film explore British youth subcultures. **Essay questions on this will be given at a later date.**

There will be a film screening during the term which you will be expected to attend and analyse the film for the review. The literature and film review is due in on **Thursday 22 March, and you will be expected to buy a copy of the book.**

### **3. Class Presentation**

Prepare and deliver a small group presentation based on one of the syllabus topics. The main aim of this presentation is to draw on and compare your own experiences (and wider knowledge of American youth culture) to British youth culture. You will be assessed on team work, use of media resources and how group arguments are presented. The class presentation will take place on **Thursday 26 April. The final test will take place on Thursday 3 May**

### **Americans with Disabilities Act**

In compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodation will be provided to students with documented disabilities on a case by case basis. Students must register with the Office of Academic Support Services and provide appropriate documentation to the college before any academic adjustment will be provided.

### **Core Reading**

Reference will be made to a number of texts during the course. The following will serve as core texts:

- Osgerby, W. (1997) *Youth in Britain Since 1945*, London: Blackwell Publishers
- Hall, Stuart. & Jefferson, T. (Eds.) (1993) ***Resistance through Rituals: Youth Subcultures in Post-war Britain***. London: Routledge.
- Hebdige, D. (1979) ***Subculture: The Meaning of Style (New Accents)***. London: Routledge.
- Muggleton, D. Weinzierl, R. (Eds.) (2004) ***The Post-subcultures Reader***. London: Berg Publishers.
- Welsh, I. (2004) ***Trainspotting***. London: Vintage.

I have also selected relevant reading for each session and from pages 5-7 and listed additional reading, films and internet sites.

### **Course Programme**

The following timetable is negotiable and may be changed or amended to take up opportunities for learning arising from current and ongoing events

Session 1      **Introducing British Youth Culture**  
18 January      Introductions, course outline and objectives. Defining Britishness, and exploring concepts and theories on youth culture

#### **Reading**

Valentine, G. Skelton, T. & Chambers, D. (1998) Chapter 1: 'Cool Places an Introduction to Youth and Youth Cultures' (p 1-32)

Hall, S. Jefferson, T. (1983) Chapter 1: 'Subcultures, Cultures and Class'. (p9 -17)

Session 2      **Subcultures Part 1**  
25 January      An Historical overview into the different subcultures post 1945. We will explore how the media and wider society dealt with these different youth style tribes.

#### **Reading**

Hebdige, D. (1979) *Subculture: Meaning of Style*. Chapters 4 *Hipsters, beats and teddy boy*. (p46-59 )

Osgerby, W. (1997) *Youth in Britain Since 1945* Chapter 4 *Mods* (p64-78), Chapter 6 *Skins* (p106-110)

For further reading see Hall, Stuart. & Jefferson, T. (Eds.) (1993) *Resistance through Rituals: Youth Subcultures in Post-war Britain*. London: Routledge. Sections on subcultures, Mods, Teds, Skins. (p87-102)

Session 3      **Subcultures Part 2**  
01 February      Continuing on from last session examining the story of Punks in Britain, and birth of Reggae and rude boys.  
**Guest Speaker to be confirmed**

#### **Reading**

Hebdige, D. (1979) *Subculture: Meaning of Style*. Chapter 2 (p23-29), Chapter 3 (p 30-45) Chapter 4 (p62-70) Chapter 7 (p106-112)

Muggleton, D. Weinzierl, R. (2004) *The Post-subcultures Reader*  
Chapter 5 (p223-235)

- Session 4 **Film Screening & Discussion**  
08 February *Trainspotting*, (1996) Director, Danny Boyle. (94 mins)
- Session 5 **Subcultures Part 3**  
15 February Final part of the journey into sub-cultures this session will also examine whether sub-cultures still exist today in contemporary society
- Reading**  
Muggleton, D. Weinzierl, R. (2004) *The Post-subcultures Reader*  
Chapter 1 (p3-23)  
Bennett, A. & Kahn-Harris, K (eds) (2004) *After Subculture*  
Chapter(p65-78)  
**Guest speaker** (to be confirmed)
- Session 6 **Excursion** (to be confirmed)  
22 February
- Session 7 **Fashion, Music and Current trends**  
01 March Here we look at how youth identity is influenced by consumer culture. How do fashion, music and the latest trends play an integral role in reinvention of youth branding?
- Last Lesson before Mid term Break**  
**Mid term test - hand in Journals**
- Reading**  
Bennett, A. (1999) *Popular Music and Youth Culture: Music, Identity, and Place*.  
Muggleton, D. Weinzierl, R. (2004) *The Post-subcultures Reader*  
Chapters 19 & 20 (p285-315)
- 08 March **Mid Term Break**
- Session 8 **Teen Taboos**  
15 March Teenage pregnancy, underage drinking, drug use and anti-social behaviour; these are some of the issues which we will be tackling.
- Reading**  
McRobbie, A. (2000) *Feminism and Youth Culture*. Chapter 1(p12-25)  
Chapter 7 (p159)  
MacDonald, R. & Marsh, J. (2005) *Disconnected Youth? Growing Up in Britain's Poor Neighbourhoods*. Chapter 7 (p128-151)
- Session 9 **Race and Youth Identity**  
22 March How do British born second and third generation of migrant parents negotiate between different cultures, lifestyle choices that influence and shape their identities?
- Reading**  
Nayak, A. (2003) *Race, Place and Globalization: Youth Cultures in a Changing World*. Chapter 7 (p139-208)

Alexander, C. (1996) *The Art of Being Black: The Creation of Black British Youth Identities*.

- Session 10    **Film Screening**  
29 March    *Glastonbury* (2006) Director Julien Temple (138 mins)
- Session 11    **Gangs, Guns and Glamour**  
05 April    In recent years we have seen a sharp rise in gun crime in inner city areas. This session will explore how music and popular culture has glamorised this phenomenon, and how the consequences have been handled by media, the government and the community.
- Reading**  
Forman, M (2002) *The 'Hood Comes First: Race, Space, and Place in Rap and Hip Hop*.  
Bennett, A. (1999) *Popular Music and Youth Culture: Music, Identity and Place*. Chapter 6 (p88-102)
- Session 12    **Excursion** to be confirmed  
12 April
- Session 13    **Guest speaker/debate** (to be confirmed)  
19 April
- Session 14    **Class Presentation**  
26 April    **Hand in Journals**
- Session 15    **End of Term Test**  
03 May

### **General Bibliography**

- Alexander, C. (1996) *The Art of Being Black: The Creation of Black British Youth Identities*, Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Alexander, C. (2000) *The Asian Gang: Ethnicity, Identity, Masculinity*. London: Berg Publishers
- Barnard, M (2002) *Fashion as Communication*. London: Routledge
- Bennett, A. (1999) *Popular Music and Youth Culture: Music, Identity and Place*, London: Palgrave Macmillan
- Bennett, A. & Kahn-Harris, K (eds) (2004) *After Subculture*, London: Palgrave
- Brake, M. (1985) *Comparative Youth Culture*. London: Routledge
- Cashmore, E. (1984) *No Future: Youth and Society*. London & New York: Heinemann
- Cohen, S. (1967) *Folk Devils and Moral Panics*. London: Paladin
- Erikson, E. (1977) *Childhood and Society*. London: Methuen
- Fortune-Belle, B. (

- Hall, S. & Jefferson, T. (eds.) (1976) *Resistance through Rituals: Youth Subcultures in Post-War Britain*. London: Harper Collins
- Gilroy, P. (1987) *There Ain't no Black in the Union Black*. London: Arnold
- Hall, S. (2000) Multicultural Citizens, Monocultural Citizenship? In Pearce, N. and Hallgarten, J. (eds.) *Tomorrow's Citizens: critical debates in citizenship and education*. London Institute for Public Policy Research
- Hebdige, D. (1979) *Subculture: The Meaning of Style*. London: Methuen
- Forman, M. (2002) *The Hood Comes First: Race, Space, and Place in Rap and Hip Hop*. London: Wesleyan University Press.
- Kaur, R. and Kalra, V. (1996) New paths for South Asian identity and musical creativity In Sharma, S. Hutnyk, J. and Sharma, A. (eds.) *Dis-orienting Rhythms*. London: Zed Books
- MacDonald, R. & Marsh, J (eds.) (2005) *Disconnected Youth? Growing up in Britain's Poor Neighbourhoods*. London: Palgrave Macmillan
- McRobbie, A. (1991) *Feminism and Youth Culture: from Jackie to Just Seventeen* London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Moore, S. & Rosenthal, D. (1993) *Sexuality in Adolescence*. London: Routledge
- Smith, M. (2002) *Trainspotting (BFI Modern Classics S.)*: London: BFI (British Film Institute)
- Osgerby, W. (1997) *Youth in Britain Since 1945*, London: Blackwell Publishers
- Parekh, B. (2000) *The Future of Multi-Ethnic Britain*. London: Profile Books Ltd
- Polhemus, T. (1994) *Street Style* Thames and Hudson Ltd
- Redhead, S. (ed.) (1993). *Rave off : politics and deviance in contemporary youth culture*. (Avebury: Aldershot)
- Smith, Z. (2002) *White Teeth*. London: Penguin Ltd
- Valentine, G. Skelton, T. & Chambers, D. (1998) *Cool Places: Geographies of Youth Cultures*. London: Routledge
- Webner, P. Modood, P. (2000) (eds.) *Debating Cultural Hybridity, Multicultural Identities and Politics of Anti-Racism*. London: Zed Books
- Welsh, I, (2004) *Trainspotting*. London: Vintage

### **Internet Sources**

- <http://elt.britcoun.org.pl/elt/> (British Council)
- [www.byc.org.uk](http://www.byc.org.uk)
- [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)
- [www.bfi.org.uk/sightandsound](http://www.bfi.org.uk/sightandsound)
- [www.blink.org.uk](http://www.blink.org.uk)

[www.blackbritain.co.uk](http://www.blackbritain.co.uk)

[www.britsoc.co.uk](http://www.britsoc.co.uk)

[www.channel4.com](http://www.channel4.com)

[www.cre.gov.uk](http://www.cre.gov.uk)

[www.electrofunkroots.co.uk](http://www.electrofunkroots.co.uk)

[www.irr.org.uk](http://www.irr.org.uk)

[www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk)

[www.talktofrank](http://www.talktofrank)

[www.teenpregnancy.org](http://www.teenpregnancy.org)

[www.timeout.com/london/](http://www.timeout.com/london/)

**Film List:**

*Bhaji on the Beach* (1993), Director Gurinder Chada

*Bend it Like Beckham* (2002), Director Gurinder Chadha

*Bullet Boy* (2004), Director Saul Dibb

*East is East* (1999), Director Damien O' Donnell

*Glastonbury* (2006), Director Julien Temple

*Human Traffic* (1999), Director Justin Kerrigan

*Jubilee* (1977), Director Derek Jarman

*Kidulthood* (2006), Director Menhaj Huda

*My Beautiful Laundrette* (1985), Director Stephen Frear

*My Son the Fanatic* (1999), Director Udayan Prasad

*Pressure* (1975), Director Horace Ové

*Quadrophenia* (1979), Director Franc Roddam

*Scum* (1979), Director Alan Clarke

*South West Nine* (2001), Director Richard Parry

*Trainspotting* (1996), Director Danny Boyle

*The Great Rock 'n' Roll Swindle* (1980), Director Julien Temple