



**UNIVERSITY OF BANJA LUKA
FACULTY OF PHILOLOGY**

MASTER'S STUDIES

Study programme(s)	English Language and Literature
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Course title	Critical Cultural Studies			
Code	Status	Semester	Hours	ECTS
	Elective	1 st	2+2	5
Lecturer(s)	Prof. Danijela Majstorovic, Ph.D.			

Eligibility requirements

N/A

Course objectives

The course aims to provide students with an ability for a more intense acquisition of critical knowledge in different interdisciplinary fields within critical cultural studies. It has been envisaged as a search for productive answers to the question 'what are the lenses offering us everyday life experience, cultural production as well as theoretical insights by means of which we can create emancipatory politics of equality, freedom and justice?' The course enables students to acquire foundational skills, concepts and terminology, and to approach theoretical and methodological problems in the critical analysis of selected practices in the field of cultural production and everyday life. Students learn about theoretical approaches and acquire heuristic tools not just to perform cultural analyses but also to understand affirmative equality politics and social transformations in the public space of the Balkan/Southeast European context as well as internationally.

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students should:

- Gain critical and socially relevant insight into theoretical frameworks and their uses, i.e. understand interdisciplinary approaches to cultural practices;
- Understand and analyse historicised and contextualised cultural production in a post(socialist) and post(colonial) context;
- Acquire the critical apparatus for cultural analysis in order to produce socially relevant knowledge;
- Further production of theoretical lenses and empirical research and interventions aiming to repoliticise cultural production for the purposes of affirming and transforming social imaginaries, politics and collectives of today.

Course topics

- a. **Introduction to a critical study of culture, ideology and gender – general concepts, dilemmas and tools (10 hours of lecture)**

The introductory part aims to introduce students to general theoretical and methodological problems relevant for the abovementioned course aims and outcomes through the following:

- **Reading/observing/performing political subjects through cultural production:** text, discourse, body, identity, subject; stereotypes, gaze, other, difference; body, biopolitics, popular culture;

trauma, affect and the political; resist hegemonic technologies of governance through culturalisation of politics

- Theory I: ideology, culture, representation/meaning, Marxist cultural interpretations, hegemonies and resistance, memory and testimony
- Theory II: subjectivity/identity, popular culture, everyday life
- Race, ethnicity, nation
- Gender, sexuality and feminism: cultural theory and practice
- Popular culture, mass media and technology
- Everyday life, living experience and cultural space – audio-visual arts, urban struggles
- Cultural studies and feminisms as 'martial arts'– anthropology, equality politics, politics of culture, feminism-postsocialism-postcoloniality, decolonial lenses, affirmative and universal politics of the present.

b. Thematic areas:

- ✓ **Literary-linguistic-cultural production (4 hours)**
- ✓ **Film and visual culture (4 hours)**
- ✓ **Popular practices, everyday life and public engagement (4 hours)**

After the introductory part, the theoretical and empirical lenses are brought together in the following: Literary-linguistic-cultural production, Film and visual culture, Popular practices, Everyday life and public engagement. Within each area selected topics and authors are selected with an awareness of contextual historicity and politics. This should serve as a platform to students in rethinking work on their individual assignments which should be critical overviews of cultural practice of their choice. The thematic areas are discussed and researched in an 'interactive classroom' where theory, language, engagement and art meet through seminars, lectures, screenings and debates of different guest lecturers and speakers, artists and activists organised according to the needs of students.

c. Analysis of key topics and overview of key tasks:

**CULTURAL PRODUCTION AND EMANCIPATORY POLITICS
(8 hours)**

After midterm colloquium (critical reading diary as an overview of work in the first part of the course), students will have an opportunity to revise key topics and tasks in the following way:

- Theory/methodology workshop on suggestions and themes for individual term papers (term papers aim to offer critical overview of the selected cultural practices through emancipatory lenses)
- University, cultural institutions and critical pedagogy of the public sphere; politics of culture and cultural politics: public policy, public intellectuals and public sphere in a comparative context; public sphere as a field of promising interventions
- Revision and consolidation, finishing term-papers – seminars, presentations, critical reading diary

Teaching methods and strategies

The module has been envisaged as a series of interactive classrooms (seminars, lectures, talks, debates, analytical workshops) with concrete duties and tasks intended for students where they deal with different trajectories of theory production, arts, texts and discourses and public engagement of today.

Course reading list

Mandatory texts:

1. Majstorović, D. (2013). *Diskursi periferije: kritički eseji o kulturi i društvu u poslijeratnoj Bosni i Hercegovini (Discourses of/on Periphery: Critical Essays on Culture and Society in Postwar Bosnia and Herzegovina)*. Beograd: Biblioteka XX vek.
2. Majstorović, D. (ed.). (2012). *Kritičke kulturološke studije u postjugoslovenskom prostoru (Critical Cultural Studies in the Post-Yugoslav Spaces)*. Banja Luka: Filološki fakultet.
3. Majstorović, D., & Lassen, I. (eds.). (2011). *Living with Patriarchy- Discursive Constructions of Gendered Subjects Across Cultures*. DAPSAC series: John Benjamins.
4. Majstorović, D. & Turjačanin, V. (2011). *U okrilju nacije: konstruisanje etničkog i državnog identiteta kod mladih u Bosni i Hercegovini (In the Embrace of a Nation: Construction of Ethnic and State Identity Among Youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina)*. Banja Luka: CKSP (Centre for cultural and social repair).

Additional readings:

1. Beasley, Chris. (2005). *Gender & Sexuality*. London, Thausen Oaks, New Delhi: SAGE Publications.
2. Butler, Judith. (2001). *Tela koja nešto znače. O diskurzivnim granicama «pola»*. Beograd: Samizdat B92.
3. Duda, Dean. (2002). *Kulturalni studiji. Ishodišta i problemi*. Zagreb: AGM.
4. Husanović, Jasmina, & Arsenijević, Damir. (eds.). (2006). *Na tragu novih politika: Kultura i obrazovanje u BiH*. Tuzla.
5. *Kulturalne studije i drugo*. "Razlika / Différance" 3-4. (2003). Tuzla: Društvo za književna i kulturalna istraživanja.
6. McRobbie, Angela. (2005). *The Uses of Cultural Studies*. London, Thausen Oaks, New Delhi: SAGE Publications.
7. Moranjak-Bamburać, Nirman. (2006). *Vodič kroz studij roda, ideologije, kulture*. Sarajevo: Centar za interdisciplinarnu studiju Univerziteta u Sarajevu.
8. Moranjak-Bamburać, Nirman (ed.). (2006). *Rod, ideologija, kultura. Čitanka*. Sarajevo: Centar za interdisciplinarnu studiju Univerziteta u Sarajevu.
9. Storey, John. (1993). *An Introductory Guide to Cultural Theory and Popular Culture*. Harvester Wheatsheaf.
10. Storey, John (ed.). (1998). *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture: A Reader* (2nd ed.). London: Prentice Hall.
11. Monaghan, John, & Just, Peter. (2003). *Socijalna i kulturna antropologija*. Sarajevo: Šahinpašić.
12. Kellner, Douglas. (2004). *Medijska kultura*. Beograd: Clio.
13. Fiske, John. (2001). *Popularna kultura*. Beograd: Clio.
14. Kirby, Jean. (2003). *Gender Studies: Terms and Debates*. London, Palgrave.
15. Butler, Judith. (2004). *Undoing Gender*. London: Routledge.

Theory readings (ancillary to writing term-papers):

1. Various national and international journals (depending on availability)
2. Agamben, Giorgio. (1998). *Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
3. Antze, Paul, & Lambek, Michael (eds.). (1996). *Tense Past: Cultural Essays in Trauma and Memory*. New York: Routledge.
4. Ashcroft, Bill, Griffiths, Gareth, & Tiffin, Helen (eds.). (2001). *Post-Colonial Studies: The Key Concepts*. London: Taylor & Francis Group.
5. Benjamin, Walter. (1970). *Illuminations*. Ed. Walter Benjamin. London: Fontana/Collins.

6. Bhabha, Homi K. (2004). *The Location of Culture*. New York: Routledge.
7. Caruth, Cathy (ed.). (1995). *Trauma: Explorations in memory*. Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press.
8. Cohen, Stanley. (2001). *States of Denial: Knowing about Atrocities and Suffering*. London: Polity Press.
9. Derrida, Jacques. (1994). *Spectres of Marx: The State of the Debt, the Work of Mourning, and the New International*. New York and London: Routledge.
10. Eagleton, Terry. (2005). *Holy Terror*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
11. Eng, David L., & Kazanjian, David (eds.). (2003). *Loss: The Politics of Mourning*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
12. Felman, Shoshana. (2002). *The Juridical Unconscious: Trials and Traumas in the Twentieth Century*. Cambridge, MA.
13. Goldberg, David Theo, & Quayson, Ato (eds.). (2002). *Relocating Postcolonialism*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.
14. Tal, Kali. (1996). *Worlds of Hurt: Reading the Literatures of Trauma*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
15. Ugrešić, Dubravka. (1998). *The Culture of Lies*. London: Phoenix House.
16. Williams, Raymond. (1977). *Marxism and Literature*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
17. Žižek, Slavoj. (1999). *The Ticklish Subject: The Absent Centre of Political Ontology*. London: Verso.
18. Wachtel, A. B. (1998). *Making a Nation, Breaking a Nation: Literature and Cultural Politics in Yugoslavia*. Stanford, California, Stanford University Press.
19. Braidotti, Rosi. (1994). *Nomadic subjects: embodiment and sexual difference in contemporary feminist theory*. New York Chichester: Columbia University Press.
20. Donald, M., & Hurcombe, L. (eds.). (2000). *Gender and Material Culture in Historical Perspective (Studies in Gender and Material Culture)*. New York, Macmillan.
21. Eagleton, T. (2000). *The Idea of Culture*. Oxford, Blackwell.
22. Friedman, S.S. (1998). *Mappings/Feminism and the Cultural Geographies of Encounter*. Princeton, Princeton University Press.
23. Hooks, Bell. (2003). *Teaching Community: A Pedagogy of Hope*. London, Routledge.
24. Moi, Toril. (1985). *Sexual/Textual Politics: Feminist Literary Theory*. London, Methuen.
25. Ricoeur, Paul. (2004). *Memory, History, Forgetting*. Translated by Kathleen Blamey and David Pellauer. Chicago, University of Chicago Press.
26. Sandoval, Chela. (2000). *Methodology of the Oppressed*. Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press.
27. Scott J. Wallach. (1988). *Gender and the Politics of History*. New York, Columbia University Press.
28. Sinfield, A. (1992). *Faultlines: Cultural Materialism and the Politics of Dissident Reading*. Oxford, Clarendon Press.
29. Sinfield, A. (1994). *Cultural politics--queer reading*. London and Philadelphia, Routledge and University of Pennsylvania Press.
30. Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty. (1993). *Outside in the Teaching Machine*. London, Routledge.

Assessment and marking

The final grade is cumulative and includes:

- active participation (10%);
- critical 'reading diary' as a reflection on selected theoretical-empirical interventions (20%);
- term-paper (2500 words) as a critical treatment of a selected cultural practice (50%); and

- final written exam (20%).

Special course designation

Syllabus information provided by: Prof. Danijela Majstorovic, Ph.D.