



SYLLABUS

Introduction to Cultural Studies

Academic year 2025-2026

1. Information about the study program

1.1. University	Babeș-Bolyai University
1.2. Faculty	The Faculty of Letters
1.3. Department	English Language and Literature
1.4. Field of study	Language and literature
1.5. Study cycle (BA/MA)	MA
1.6. Study programme/Qualification	British Cultural Studies / Master in Philology
1.7. Enrolment frequency	Full time

2. Information about the subject

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2.1. Course title		Introduction to Cultural Studies (taught in English)				Course code		LME1103	
2.2. Course tutor					Octavian More, Ph.D. Lecturer				
2.3. Seminar tutor					Octavian More, Ph.D. Lecturer				
2.4. Year of study	1	2.5. Semester		1	2.6. Type of assessment	E	2.7. Course status	Contents	DS
								Mandatory	DO

3. Total estimated time (teaching hours per semester)

3.1. Number of hours per week	3	of which: 3.2. course	1	3.3. seminar/laboratory	2
3.4. Total number of hours in the curriculum	42	of which: 3.5. course	14	3.6. seminar/laboratory	28
Allotted time for individual study (ID) and self-study activities (SA)					hours
Study based on textbook, course manual, recommended bibliography, personal notes (SA)					40
Additional research (in the library, online scientific databases/platforms, or field documentation)					28
Preparation for seminars / laboratory classes/ essays/ projects/ homework/ portfolios and reports					28
Tutoring					10
Assessment (examinations)					2
Other activities:					
3.7. Total hours for individual study (ID) and self-study activities (SA)					108
3.8. Total hours per semester					150
3.9. Number of credits					6

4. Prerequisites (if necessary)

4.1. curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachelor's degree
4.2. skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of fundamental theoretical concepts and synthetic perspectives from the field of literary ideas and aesthetics.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic knowledge of writing an academic paper.
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5. Conditions (if necessary)

5.1. for delivering lectures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> room with smart board, laptop and projector
5.2. for teaching seminars / practical courses (laboratory classes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> room with smart board, laptop and projector attendance of the lectures and seminars is not mandatory and is not a prerequisite for sitting the final exam

6. Acquired specific skills

Professional competences	C1 Appropriate use of fundamental concepts in the study of general linguistics, theory of literature and comparative literature; C2 Efficient written and oral communication in English; C4 Analysis and presentation of literary phenomena in the context of the reference culture; C6 Analysis and presentation of literary phenomena in the context of the reference culture B.
Transversal competences	CT1 Using the instruments of linguistics and literary studies in accordance to professional ethics; CT2 Teamwork; interpersonal communication, taking on specific roles; CT3 Setting up an individual project for lifelong training; achieving training by accumulating information, participating in team projects and in institutional and personal development programs.

7. Course objectives (derived from the acquired specific skills)

7.1 General objective of course	The course offers a general introduction to the field of cultural studies, laying special emphasis on the complex interdisciplinary character of the subject, providing also a theoretical and practical foundation for the other courses taught in the master's programme in British Cultural Studies.
7.2 Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquiring knowledge of the historical development of the field of cultural studies Presenting the specific British contributions in the field of cultural studies Interpretation and critical evaluation of a number of authoritative contributions in the field of cultural studies Acquiring knowledge of the main theoretical concepts, scholarly approaches and research methods used in the field of cultural studies Constructing a complex, rich and precise oral / written discourse to be applied to a subject of academic interest discussed in the course

8. Contents

8.1 Lectures	Teaching methods	Remarks
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<p>1. General introduction I. What is “cultural studies”? The intellectual foundations of cultural studies. Key concepts and theories related to cultural studies. A brief history of (British) cultural studies.</p> <p>Basic concepts/key-words: <i>culture, cultural studies, Marxism, structuralism, poststructuralism, psychoanalysis, feminism, postcolonialism, signifying practices, representation, materialism, non-reductionism, ideology</i></p>	<p>Lecturing, exemplifying, problematising, dialogue, heuristic questions.</p>	
<p>2. Culture and Society. The relationship between culture and society. Culture as a construct and the construction of culture. Cultural production and construction. Cultural hegemony and resistance. The politics of culture.</p> <p>Basic concepts/key-words: <i>culture, society, cultural construct, artefact, (cultural) production, activism, social change, cultural policy, ideology, regulation</i></p>	<p>Lecturing, exemplifying, problematising, dialogue, heuristic questions.</p>	
<p>3. Cultural identity. Construction of identity. Subjectivity and identity. Dimensions/components of identity: race, ethnicity, gender, sex, class. Intersectionality and multiple identities.</p> <p>Basic concepts/key-words: <i>personhood, essentialism, anti-essentialism, fracturing, articulation, race, racialisation, ethnicity, sexism, performativity</i></p>	<p>Lecturing, exemplifying, problematising, dialogue, heuristic questions.</p>	
<p>4. Popular Culture. Definition and significance of popular culture. “Centre” and “margin”. Subcultures and countercultures. Mass media and popular culture.</p> <p>Basic concepts/key-words: <i>establishment, popular culture, centre, margin, high/low culture, leavisism, mainstream, subculture, counterculture, media</i></p>	<p>Lecturing, exemplifying, problematising, dialogue, heuristic questions.</p>	
<p>5. Cultural Representations and Cultural Spaces. Television and digital media. Urban spaces and the city as text.</p> <p>Basic concepts/key-words: <i>manipulative model, pluralist model, hegemonic model, cyberspace, dataveillance, sociospatial approach, global city, cultural economics, suburb, edge city</i></p>	<p>Lecturing, exemplifying, problematising, dialogue, heuristic questions.</p>	
<p>6. Globalisation and Culture. Global cultural flows. Glocalisation. The nation-state and the imagined community. Cultural imperialism. Transnationalism and diaspora.</p> <p>Basic concepts/key-words: <i>cultural flow, disjunctive flow, globalisation, glocalisation, imagined community, cultural imperialism, hybridity, creolisation, diaspora, fragmentation</i></p>	<p>Lecturing, exemplifying, problematising, dialogue, heuristic questions.</p>	



<p>7. Research Methods in Cultural Studies. Qualitative and quantitative research methods. Ethnography, textual analysis and reception studies. Ethics in cultural studies. Concluding discussions.</p> <p>Basic concepts/key-words: <i>qualitative (research), quantitative (research), ethnography, textual analysis, reception studies, ethics, responsibility, prejudice, impartiality, openness</i></p>	<p>Lecturing, exemplifying, problematising, dialogue, heuristic questions.</p>	
<p>Bibliography</p> <p>Barker, Chris and Emma A. Jane. <i>Cultural Studies. Theory and Practice</i>. 5th ed. SAGE Publications Ltd., 2016. Babha, Homi K. <i>The Location of Culture</i>. 2nd ed. Routledge, 2012. During, Simon (ed). <i>The Cultural Studies Reader</i>. 3rd ed. Routledge, 2007. Morley, David and Kevin Robins (eds). <i>British Cultural Studies. Geography, Nationality, and Identity</i>. Oxford University Press, 2001. Turner, Graeme. <i>British Cultural Studies. An Introduction</i>. 3rd ed. Routledge, 2003. Turner, Graeme. <i>What's Become of Cultural Studies?</i> SAGE Publications Ltd., 2012.</p>		
8.2 Seminar / practical course (laboratory class)	Teaching methods	Remarks
<p>1. Discussion session I: What is culture? Culture as a meaning-making process.</p> <p>Key-words: <i>signifying practices, representation, artefact, cultural construct, cultural production</i></p>	<p>Heuristic dialogue, text analysis based on the theoretical information presented in the lecture, exemplifying, group work.</p>	
<p>2. Discussion session II: The politics of culture</p> <p>Key-words: <i>ideology, activism, social change, hegemony, regulation</i></p>	<p>Heuristic dialogue, text analysis based on the theoretical information presented in the lecture, exemplifying, group work.</p>	
<p>3. Discussion session III: Identity and culture</p> <p>Key-words: <i>essentialism, fracturing, articulation, racialisation, performativity</i></p>	<p>Heuristic dialogue, text analysis based on the theoretical information presented in the lecture, exemplifying, group work.</p>	
<p>4. Discussion session IV: Popular culture and its products</p> <p>Key-words: <i>establishment, mainstream, popular culture, subculture, counterculture</i></p>	<p>Heuristic dialogue, text analysis based on the theoretical information presented in the lecture, exemplifying, group work.</p>	
<p>5. Discussion session V: Cultural products in a multimedial world</p> <p>Key-words: <i>manipulative model, pluralist model, hegemonic model, cyberspace, dataveillance</i></p>	<p>Heuristic dialogue, text analysis based on the theoretical information presented in the lecture, exemplifying, group work.</p>	



6. Discussion session VI: Local and global cultures Key-words: <i>sociospatial approach, cultural economics, cultural flow, globalisation, glocalisation</i>	Heuristic dialogue, text analysis based on the theoretical information presented in the lecture, exemplifying, group work.	
7. Discussion session VII: Future locations of culture Key-words: <i>cyberspace, cyberculture, cybercommunity, materiality, prosumerism</i> General conclusions.	Heuristic dialogue, text analysis based on the theoretical information presented in the lecture, exemplifying, group work.	
Bibliography Barker, Chris and Emma A. Jane. <i>Cultural Studies. Theory and Practice</i> . 5th ed. SAGE Publications Ltd., 2016. During, Simon (ed). <i>The Cultural Studies Reader</i> . 3rd ed. Routledge, 2007. Turner, Graeme. <i>British Cultural Studies. An Introduction</i> . 3rd ed. Routledge, 2003.		

9. Validating course contents based on the expectations of epistemic communities, professional associations and of potential employers related to the field of study.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The content of the subject is closely connected with the study programmes in pre-university and university institutions (which represent the principal prospective employers of the graduates of our line of studies) The syllabus is supported by specialised literature. Part of the topics/themes discussed in the course and the seminar have been presented at national and international conferences and lectures

10. Assessment (examination)

Type of activity	10.1. Assessment criteria	10.2. Assessment methods	10.3. Weight in the final grade
10.4. Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> degree of knowledge and insight command of specialised vocabulary appropriate use of the conceptual apparatus and critical terminology ability to discuss and explain a cultural text (cultural practice, music video, advertisement, meme) complete and correct written response adequacy and coherence of written English 	Written exam	60%
10.5 Seminar/practical course (laboratory class)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> active participation constant and sustained involvement in the practical activities 	Continuous assessment: Class participation	20%

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> originality of the interpretive perspective adequacy and coherence of written English 	Written assignment	20%
10.6 Basic performance standard			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrating sound knowledge of the subject-specific concepts and ability to apply them to the studied texts. Ability to identify the distinctive traits of the studied texts and capacity to adequately contextualise these texts. Proper use of specialised vocabulary / terminology. 			
<p>Organizational details, exceptional situation management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participating in the exam is not pre-conditioned by a minimum number of attendances. Any fraudulent practices during the exam or in the written assignments will result in refusal of assessment and a commensurate grade on the respective task (1 “one”) Using AI tools for generating ideas or discourse is allowed only with the tutor's permission and with explicit acknowledgment. This applies to both class discussions or assessment tasks and examinations. Unauthorized use of AI amounts to plagiarism. According to UBB regulations, plagiarism of any type triggers expulsion from university studies. 			

	General label for Sustainable Development
	Quality Education
	Gender Equality

Date: 19.01.2025	<p>Course tutor's name and signature</p> <p>Octavian More, Ph.D. Lecturer</p>	<p>Seminar tutor's name and signature / Practical course tutor's (Laboratory tutor's) name and signature,</p> <p>Octavian More, Ph.D. Lecturer</p>
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Date of approval: 14.02.2025	Head of Department's name and signature, Dr. Petronia Popa-Petrar 	

Date of approval
Name and signature of Dean