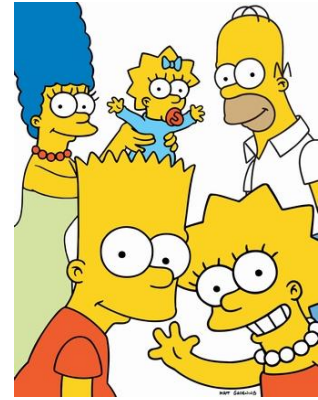




Jim Crow, stock minstrelsy character

Montgomery Wolf  
 Hist 4990  
 TR 9:30-10:45

Office hours:  
 Tu 8:30-9:15, W 1:00-2:00 & by appt  
 121 Leconte Hall  
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The Simpsons

### Popular Culture and American History

Welcome to your senior seminar! This course has been designed around the simple belief that American popular culture must be understood in a historical context. In other words, the study of the production and consumption of popular culture over time and space illuminates fundamental issues in culture and society.

The goal of the course for each of you is, of course, to produce your senior thesis. (Departmental guidelines for the paper are included at the end of this syllabus.) To help you reach your goal, this course will do several things.

- ❖ First, as a group, we will familiarize ourselves with some of the databases and archives providing us with the primary and secondary sources you will need to write your papers. Browsing this material will help you pick a topic.
- ❖ Second, we will read a range of material that will help you contextualize your chosen topic.
- ❖ Third, we will make your individual projects more manageable by breaking the process of writing a research paper down into chunks that will be due at various points during the semester.

#### Required Reading:

Leroy Ashby, *With Amusements for All: A History of American Popular Culture Since 1830* (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2006), ISBN: 978-0813123974.

William Kelleher Storey, *Writing History: A Guide for Students*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008), ISBN: 978-0195337556

Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual of Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007).

#### Say/Ask Sheets

For each class, you will be required to submit a Contribution or “Say/Ask” sheet. The format and guidelines for this can be found on ELC. These will count toward your participation grade.

#### Assignments and Grading:

In-class participation	20%
Presentation	15%
Thesis (taking into account preliminary material)	65%

#### Calendar

*The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.*

Date	Topic	Reading (for everyone)	Assignment due
Tues 1/11	How do I choose a topic? How do I justify that topic?		
Thurs 1/13 <i>Why does popular culture matter?</i>	What is popular culture, and why should we study it?	Ashby, 1-10 Reserves: George Lipsitz, "Popular Culture: This Ain't No Sideshow" (18 pp); John Storey, "What is Popular Culture" (19 pp).	
Tues 1/18	What is popular culture, and how is meaning made?	Storey, ch. 1 Levine, "The Folklore of Industrial Society: Popular Culture and Its Audiences" (31 pp); Lears,	

		"Making Fun of Popular Culture" (10 pp); Radway, "Interpretive Communities and Variable Literacies: the Functions of Romance Reading" (20 pp).	
Thurs 1/20 <i>Where are meanings made?</i>	<i>The Cultural Work of Popular Culture</i>	Storey, ch. 2 Ashby, 11-40 Reserves: Jim Cullen, "A Few Good Men: <i>Glory</i> and the Search for a Just War." (32 pp).	
Tues 1/25	<i>Race and Class</i>	Storey, ch. 3 Ashby, 41-71 Reserves: Hoppenstand, "Yellow Devil Doctors and Opium Dens" (15 pp); Roediger, "White Skins, Black Masks: Minstrelsy and White Working Class Formation before the Civil War" (18 pp)	Proposed topic & preliminary bibliog. due
Thurs 1/27	No class: indiv meetings to discuss paper topics		
Tues 2/1	No class: indiv meetings to discuss paper topics		
Thurs 2/3	<i>Gender</i>	Storey, ch. 4 Ashby, 72-142 Reserves: Marybeth Hamilton, "Sexual Politics and African-American Music, Or, Placing Little Richard in History" (15 pp)	Annotated bibliography due
Tues 2/8	<i>Kids' Stuff</i>	Ashby, 143-218 Storey, chs. 5 & 6 Reserves: Lisa Jacobson, "Revitalizing the American Home: Children's Leisure and the Revaluation of Play, 1920-1940" (13 pp)	
Thurs 2/10	<i>Consensus</i>	Ashby, 219-301 Storey, chs. 7, 8, 9 Reserves: Lynn Spigel, "Television in the Family Circle" (37 pp)	Prospectus due
Tues 2/15	<i>Discussion of research plans in class</i>		
Thurs 2/7	<i>Countercurrents</i>	Ashby, 302-393 Reserves: W. T. Lhamon, "Material Differences" (30 pp).	
Tues 2/22	<i>Technology, and Business, and Popular Culture</i>	Ashby, 394-517 Reserves: Langdon Winner, "Do Artifacts Have Politics?" (12 pp); <i>American Artifacts</i> essay (TBD)	
Thurs 2/24	<i>Transnational and Global Popular Culture</i>	Reserves: John Street, "The Politics of Popular Culture"; Ian Condry, "Japanese Hip-Hop and the Globalization of Popular Culture" (15 pp)	Preliminary 1 <sup>st</sup> section of paper due
Tues 3/1	Discussion of first sections (in class)	Storey, ch. 10	
	NO CLASS UNTIL 4/14		
Thurs 4/14	Presentations		First draft due
Tues 4/19	Presentations		
Thurs 4/21	Presentations		
Tues 4/26	Presentations		
Thurs 4/28	Presentations		<b>FINAL DRAFT DUE</b>

### Assignments

PROPOSED TOPIC & PRELIMINARY BIBLIOGRAPHY (2% of thesis grade): at a minimum, this should include your general topic, a more specific way to approach it, and the main primary sources you will use to do so.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY (2% of thesis grade): your primary sources and at least ten secondary sources.

PROSPECTUS (3-4 pp.) (3% of your thesis grade): at a minimum, this should include sections on 1) a brief description of your topic; 2) your major research question(s); 3) the project's significance (or its relationship to a broader historical issue); 4) your

principal sources; 5) a brief discussion of your methods; and 6) an outline. See Storey, pp. 13-15 for more info.

**PRELIMINARY FIRST SECTION OF PAPER:** (at least 5-6 pp) (3% of your thesis grade): at a minimum, include your introduction, thesis statement, and the beginning of your first subclaim OR your thesis statement and most of your first subclaim.  
**FIRST DRAFT** (at least 18 pp.) (3 % of thesis grade): as a draft, this does not need to be fully polished in terms of prose and grammar but should approach the full execution of the ideas and topics to be covered in the final draft. Any student who fails to turn in a first draft by April 19 will not be allowed to submit a final paper on April 28 and will receive a WF.

**ORAL PRESENTATIONS:** near the end of the semester, students will make **ten- to fifteen-minute** oral presentations to the class on their research projects. You may use notes, but do not read a text. At least ten minutes will be held open after each presentation for questions from the floor. Most of you will give your oral presentations before your final paper is due. Nonetheless your ideas in your presentations should be mature historical analysis.

**FINAL PAPER:** 18-25 pp. (exclusive of bibliography) in Times or Times New Roman 12 pt font, 1" margins. Please submit a hard copy as well as an electronic copy. Late final papers will not be accepted for any reason; if you do not hand in the final paper by the deadline of Thursday April 28, 9:30 AM, you will receive a WF for the course. This is non-negotiable.

### **Guidelines for submitting your work**

All assignments are to be double-spaced in twelve-point Times or Times New Roman font, with 1-inch margins, and numbered pages. Please submit your work electronically via email or ELC. Your preliminary first section assignment, first complete draft, and final paper must each have a cover page with a title that reflects the paper's content, be consecutively footnoted (no endnotes), have a complete bibliography, and conform to Turabian style format. Any written assignment that does not conform to all specified guidelines will not be accepted.

Please keep duplicate copies of your work (in case of loss or the need to review an assigned grade).

### **Honor Code**

All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Each student is responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.

If you are unclear about the specifics of the Honor Code, you can review them at: <http://www.uga.edu/honesty/>.

All work, including papers and exams, must be your own. **Plagiarism** constitutes a serious violation of the Honor Code and will be handled with the utmost gravity and severity. UGA defines plagiarism as "submission for academic advancement the words, ideas, opinions or theories of another that are not common knowledge, without appropriate attribution to that other person." You can read more about the University's policy on plagiarism at

[http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/prohibited\\_conduct.html#Plagiarism](http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/prohibited_conduct.html#Plagiarism).

### **Resources**

Ad\*Access, Duke University, image database of print advertising, 1911-1955. <http://library.duke.edu/digitalcollections/adaccess/>

New Georgia Encyclopedia website, which has information on various archives within the state

<http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/nge/Article.jsp?path=/TheArts/Music/ArchivesandOrganizations&id=h-3165>

**Popular Music and Society** website, which has numerous links related to Popular Music archives and organizations.

<http://www3.niu.edu/popms/links.html>

*America at Leisure*, Library of Congress website, <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/awlhtml/awlleis.html>

### **Requirements for a senior seminar paper:**

- 1) You must use primary source material appropriate to your topic. This material may be consulted in translation.
- 2) You must have the instructor's approval for your topic. You are strongly encouraged to meet with the instructor during office hours or by appointment to discuss your topic and on-going research.
- 3) You must give a presentation at the end of the semester about your research.
- 4) In addition to your paper, you must include an annotated bibliography or bibliographical essay. This will be a revised version of your bibliography that you turn in once your topic is approved.
- 5) Your paper must conform to the style requirements set forth in Turabian's *A Manual of Style for Writers*.
- 6) You must submit two copies of your paper (including all related materials – bibliography, etc.). One copy will be kept on file in the History Department.
- 7) Dual submissions are forbidden.