GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid in the academic year 2024-2025

Conceptualizing Culture (A005897)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2024-2025

A (semester 1)	English	Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Pieters, Jurgen	LW07	lecturer-in-charge
de Groote, Brecht	LW22	co-lecturer
De Roover, Jakob	LW51	co-lecturer
Fontaine, Johnny	PP09	co-lecturer
Mus, Francis	LW22	co-lecturer
Uhl, Christian	LW21	co-lecturer
Vanden Broecke, Steven	LW03	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025	**crdts**	**offering**
Exchange Programme Critical Perspectives on Culture	5	A
Elective Set Critical Perspectives on Culture	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Cultural theory, cultural analysis, philosophy of culture, cultural history.

Position of the course

This course is part of the ‘ritical Perspectives on Culture’course cluster. It offers a survey of 20th-century and more recent contributions to the development of cultural theory and the different ways of conceptualizing culture. Each class focuses on (a) a specific ‘chool’or movement, exemplified by prime representatives whose works are central to the class discussion, based on classic essays by the authors in question or (b) a single author who does not represent any ‘chool’of thought. The texts are chosen for their conceptual contribution to the analysis of culture, as well as their practical implementation of this analysis. The course aims to introduce the students to reflective and theoretical thinking, without losing sight however of the more practical contribution of theoretical reflection to the analysis of cultural phenomena.

Contents

The course is organized as a more or less chronological survey of key movements, phases, and contributions.
The following movements or phases and authors will be dealt with:
1. Semiotics / Clifford Geertz
2. Frankfurter Schule / Walter Benjamin
3. Sociology of culture / Pierre Bourdieu
4. Culture and Personality / Ruth Benedict
5. Postwar Asian Cultural Criticism / Yoshimi Takeuchi
6. Post-structuralism / Michel Foucault
7. (Post-)Marxism / Mikhail Bakhtin, Raymond Williams
8. Cultural studies / Stuart Hall
9. Postcolonial and Subaltern studies / Gayatri Spivak, Kwame Anthony Appiah
10. Media theory / Friedrich Kittler

11. Actor Network Theory / Bruno Latour
12. Cultural and Cross-Cultural Psychology / Hazel R. Markus, Shinobu Kitayama

Initial competences

- Basic training in at least one of the disciplines in the humanities or social sciences.
- The ability to read academic writings on culture in English.

Final competences

1 To have gained in-depth understanding of major schools and thinkers and a specific set of issues and questions in the conceptualization of culture.
2 To be able to independently read and analyze texts in the relevant domains of study.
3 To have the capacity to formulate research questions in the study and theorizing of cultures.
4 To develop the skills required for writing and presenting research papers.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Lecture, Independent work

Study material

None

References

Course content-related study coaching

Support via Ufora. By appointment.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Calculation of the examination mark