

American Studies 7

History of American Popular Culture

3 units; 3 hours lecture

*Recommended Preparation: English 1 or eligibility for English 1A or qualification by appropriate assessment
Degree applicable Transfer CSU, UC*

This interdisciplinary course examines how popular culture contributes to the search for meaning in everyday American life. Various forms of popular culture including music, film, television, advertising, sports, fashion, design, toys, magazines, comic books, and cyber culture will be analyzed. Students will assess how American popular culture reveals historical forces at work that influence our lives.

Course Objectives:

1. Define and apply culture theory to American popular culture in terms of what is distinctly American and popular culture.
 - Essay exam.
2. Identify and distinguish between various forms of popular culture, such as high-brow, low-brow, and youth culture.
 - Essay exams
3. Identify innovations and trends that appear in the Gilded Age and analyze their role in reflecting and shaping contemporary concerns and expectations.
 - Essay exams
4. Assess several innovations in popular culture that appear at the turn of the 20th century and can be associated with the emergence of modernity in the United States.
 - Essay exams
5. Define major historical, political, social, and economic forces and interpret their influence on American popular culture from Prohibition through the end of the Great Depression.
 - Essay exams
6. Differentiate and recognize the merits and dangers of popular culture masked within media structures such as film, music, and comic books.
 - Essay exams
7. Follow the evolution of the American aesthetic and analyze how popular culture created an identity that was distinctly American.
 - Essay exams
8. Identify and examine social, economic, and political influences on American popular culture.
 - Essay exams

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

1. Original Arguments In a written assignment, oral presentation or creative work, students will apply interdisciplinary methodologies to develop an original arguments about American popular culture, and students will use those methods to prove the validity of their interpretation.

ADA Statement:

El Camino College is committed to providing educational accommodations for students with disabilities upon the timely request by the student to the instructor. A student with a disability, who would like to request an academic accommodation, is responsible for identifying herself/himself to the instructor and to the Special Resource Center. To make arrangements for academic accommodations, contact the Special Resource Center.

Student Code of Conduct

<https://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/2019-policies/AP%205500%20Student%20Conduct%20.pdf>

Student Rights and Grievances Procedure 5530

<https://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/boarddocs/AP%205530%20STUDENT%20%20RIGHTS%20AND%20GRIEVANCES.pdf>