

CTCS 517:

TOPICS IN CULTURAL STUDIES

Professor Laura Isabel Serna

Mondays, 10:00am - 1:50pm SCA 316



This graduate seminar introduces students to key concepts in the interdisciplinary field of cultural studies, an academic field devoted to analyzing “culture.” In class we will concentrate on reading key texts in cultural studies from the Frankfurt School and the Birmingham School as well as texts from postcolonial theory and critical race theory that engage with the analysis of power as it is consolidated and contested in popular culture. We will examine a variety of cultural forms ranging from architecture and fashion to television, film, and the Internet. And we will interrogate the methodologies that cultural studies scholars have employed to theorize popular culture, subcultures, cultural industries, and the reception and consumption of culture in national and transnational contexts. By the end of the semester, you will have developed a basic but essential vocabulary for thinking about and analyzing culture and be familiar with a range of methodologies that you can use in your own research.