Course Overview

Course Goals

1. To survey the literature in the sociology of culture, with an emphasis on current approaches to culture
2. To stimulate ideas for empirical work in cultural sociology
3. To offer cultural tools for application to empirical research in social science and beyond

Requirements

1. Read fully and be prepared to discuss all required readings and seminar papers
2. Attendance and active participation in class discussions
3. One or more class periods in which you distribute a “seminar paper” ahead of time and lead discussion of the material for that period
4. An in-depth writing project related to cultural sociology

Auditors must attend and participate actively in class discussions and must do a seminar paper and discussion leadership one or more times, but do not need to write the final paper.

Readings and Resources

There will be a site for this course created at http://sakai.unc.edu. We will use this course to post documents and seminar papers as well as for general discussion.

Sociology students taking this class may also be interested in joining the ongoing Cultural and Political Sociology Workshop at UNC. I will be happy to provide information. Also, students may be interested in joining the ASA Section on the Sociology of Culture, a vibrant intellectual home for cultural sociologists.

Most required readings that are not in the books listed below are available for download from the course readings site, http://perrin.socsci.unc.edu/readings, or via Sakai. You will need a username and password to access the readings site; these will be provided in class.

The recommended readings listed under many class sessions are suggestions for further reading in the field. Students presenting on those dates, and those with particular interests in the areas, may find them useful.
Required Books


Course Schedule

January 14 Introduction and course organization

- Lecture: A history of, and agenda for, cultural sociology
- Recommended:

January 21 No class - MLK Day

January 28 Contemporary Debates in Theory and Method

First half:


Second half:


**Recommended:**


— Peter Wagner, “Power, Uncertainty, and Institution in Recent French Debates.” *Journal of Political Philosophy* 2(3): 270-289


**February 4** Childress, *Under the Cover*, entire

**February 11** Music

**First Half:**


**Second Half:**


**Recommended:**


**February 18 Art and Taste**

**First Half:**


**Second Half:**


**Recommended:**


- Lena, Jennifer C., and Danielle J. Lindemann. “Who is an Artist? New Data for an Old Question.” Poetics 2014


**February 25** Schemata, Brain, Culture

**First Half:**


**Second Half:**


First Half:


Second Half:


Recommended:

- Paul Lichterman, The Search for Political Community (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1996)
- Walsh, Talking About Politics
March 25 Collective and Collected Memory

First Half:


Second Half:


NOTE: This book is not yet published. Professor Lena has agreed to provide portions in draft form. I will distribute the relevant portions in class.

April 8 Culture and Health

First Half:


Second Half:


**Recommended:**


**April 15 Cross-Culture, Boundaries, Identities**

**First Half:**


**Second Half:**


**Recommended:**


April 22 Where do we go from here?

NOTE: Final papers due

First Half: Culture and the Economy


Second Half:


- Course evaluations