



CIEE Study Abroad

Course title:	Gender, Race, Sexuality, and Popular Culture
Course number:	GEND 3001 CIEE
Programs offering course:	CIEE Summer Online
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. Semester Credits:	3
Contact Hours:	45
Term:	Summer 2020

Course Description

“Popular culture is the stage where we rehearse our identities.”

-- José Esteban Muñoz

Through this course, students will apply a critical lens to the representation of gender, race, and sexuality in popular cultural media including Dutch TV, film, radio, the Internet, music, magazines and literature. Comparisons will be made with similar representations in other European countries and the United States. Course materials pay special attention to questions of other identity markers such as race, economic status, disability and the body. The course combines key concepts and theoretical frameworks in critical theory and cultural studies with analyses of media and popular cultural sites. This course will include guest lectures from experts in the field.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Be intimately familiar with the history and dominant forms of popular culture, particularly in the Netherlands;
- Be able to address the mechanisms by which popular cultures serves as the dominant site of representations of identity;
- Marshal an in-depth understanding of the formal and institutional parameters of popular culture in the Netherlands, including the production, delivery and trade of visual and written media, as well as the rapidly changing practices of consuming popular culture in the internet age;
- Process, engage with, and interrogate theories of popular culture, specifically as they pertain to questions of identity formation
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the creation, maintenance and pop-cultural representation of the interconnected social categories of gender, race, and sexuality;
- Be able to apply theories of popular culture and identity to pop-cultural artifacts, both orally and in writing in service of crafting an original and convincing argument;
- Speak authoritatively on the complex relationship between the creators, distributors, critics, and consumers of popular culture, and the key role played by media conglomerates therein;
- Be sensitive to the power relationships that undergird the representation of gender, race, and sexuality in American and Dutch popular culture -- and society at large;
- Have become more discerning and critical consumers of film and television.



Course Prerequisites

None

CIEE Summer Online courses will involve asynchronous instruction. Instructors will apply theory and deliver the learning objectives using a rich array of online teaching methods and resources from CIEE host countries and communities. Full details, including dates and deadlines for assessments, will be provided in the final syllabus shortly before online learning begins.