This course is a survey of many of the most important critical theories of media in the traditions of Marxism, structuralism, post-structuralism, feminism, and cultural studies. It is intellectually rigorous and reading-intensive. Our time is organized around discussions of readings, so you must attend class prepared to engage with the material assigned for each day.

Assignments and grades:

20% reading responses, 150-200 words, due for every day of the course on which there is an “X”. These will be not be graded; you get either credit or no credit. 20 will count, 1 point each. These reading responses can take the form of questions, summaries, or commentary on the readings. The most important thing is to demonstrate that you have engaged seriously with the ideas in the reading, showing your effort to understand and appreciate these ideas. Reading responses are to be submitted via email with the subject line “562 reading response” (no quotation marks) and are due the night before class. Responses with an incorrect subject line will be disregarded after one warning.

30% paper (20% first pass, including proposal and annotated bibliography; 10% second pass/revision) To get any credit for the second pass you must do a proper, thorough revision. Cleaning up corrections without serious revision gets you zero.

15% midterm exam, identifications + essay, open book/notebook.

25% final exam, identifications + essay, open book/notebook.

10% participation -- based on both frequency and quality; students who are often absent or late or who do not contribute meaningfully to discussions will get zero.
Carl Wilson, *Let’s Talk About Love: A Journey to the End of Taste*
other readings available as PDF downloads in D2L
Céline Dion, *Let’s Talk About Love* (audio recording, to be shared via D2L)

Schedule:

**week 1 background**

(1) 1.24 course introduction

(2) 1.26 read Storey intro, part one intro, Arnold, Leavis (1-19) X

**week 2 culturalism**

(3) 1.31 read Storey part two intro, Hoggart, Williams, Hall & Whannel (23-40, 45-51) X

(4) 2.2 read Geertz, “Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight” (D2L) X

**week 3 Marxism**

(5) 2.7 read part three intro, Marx & Engels, Marx, Engels, Adorno (55-74) X

(6) 2.9 read Adorno & Horkheimer, “The Culture Industry (D2L) X

**week 4 hegemony**

(7) 2.14 read Gramsci, Bennett, Storey (75-97) X

(8) 2.16 read Hall (111-141) X

**week 5 semiotics & structuralism**

(9) 2.21 read Berger, “Semiotic Analysis” (D2L) X

(10) 2.23 read Barthes, Wright (261-284) X

**week 6 post-structuralism**
(11) 2.28 read Althusser (302-312) X
(12) 3.2 read Foucault, Weedon (313-331) X

weeks 7&8 cultural studies

(13) 3.7 read Fiske, “Ideology and Meanings” (D2L) X
(14) 3.9 read Fiske, “British Cultural Studies and Television” (D2L) X
(15) 3.14 read Wang, “‘A Struggle of Contending Stories’: Race, Gender, and Political Memory in Forrest Gump” (D2L); view Forrest Gump X

(16) 3.16 Midterm Exam (in class, possibly in a different room)

--spring break--

weeks 9 & 10 feminism

(17) 3.28 read Ang (173-182) / paper proposal due (10% of first pass grade) X
(18) 3.30 read Rakow (183-198) X
(19) 4.4 read Radway, Geraghty (199-223) X
(20) 4.6 read Butler (224-238) / paper annotated bibliography due (10% of first pass grade) X

weeks 11 & 12 the politics of the popular

(21) 4.11 read Bourdieu (498-507), DiMaggio (519-538) X
(22) 4.13 read Fiske (564-580) X
(23) 4.18 read de Certeau (545-555) X
(24) 4.20 read Schudson (556-563), McGuigan (606-617) / paper (first pass) due X

week 13 case study in taste & popular culture: Let’s Talk About Love
(25) 4.25 read Wilson chapters 1-7; listen to Let’s Talk About Love X

(26) 4.27 read Wilson chapters 8-12 X

weeks 14&15 presentations

(27) 5.2 presentations

(28) 5.4 presentations

(29) 5.9 presentations

(30) 5.11 presentations

5.13 (Friday, 4:30 pm) paper (second pass) due

10 am-noon, Monday 5.16: Final Exam (cumulative but weighted towards material after the midterm)