Course Description:
In this course, we will examine global political events and behaviors through the lens of popular culture. Throughout the semester, we will study top-down and bottom-up political messaging in American, Soviet/Russian, Middle Eastern and Korean popular culture, utilizing analytical tools and methods from the social sciences and cultural studies. Students will gain a clear understanding of the ways in which popular culture both reflects and impacts political phenomena worldwide and our four case studies will offer a practical overview of global political history from the start of the Cold War until today.

Grade Scheme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>00-59</td>
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</tbody>
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Grade Composition

- Quizzes/writing assignments: 10%
- Group Presentation: 15%
- Midterm: 20%
- In class attendance and participation: 20%
- Take home Final paper: 35%
Assignments:

Quizzes:
There will be 3-5 pop quizzes and about the readings, course content during the semester.

Short writing assignments:
There will be two short group writing assignments.

Presentation:
Students in the course will be divided into groups during the first half of the semester. During the last two weeks of the semester, each group will give a 20 minute presentation—details will be discussed in the first weeks of the semester.

Participation:
Students should regularly attend class, having read all the required readings. They should be prepared to both pose and answer questions about the readings and engage in discussion on the broader subject matter.

Midterm Exam:
Midterm exam covering the topics in the course so far.

Final Paper
The final paper topic will relate to students’ group assignments, the countries they study during the semester for their presentation. Further instructions about the final paper will be discussed in the second half of the semester.

Policies:

Academic Integrity
Every student must agree to abide by UGA’s academic honesty policy and procedures known as A Culture of Honesty and the University of Georgia Student Honor Code, which work together to define a climate of academic honesty and integrity at the university.

Special Needs
This course is guided by the assumption of dignity and respect for all persons in the classroom. My hope is to support diversity of learners and to provide a non-threatening environment. Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential. To ensure that you receive the most appropriate reasonable accommodation based on your needs, contact me as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of classes), and make sure that you have contacted the Disability Resource Center: http://drc.uga.edu
In-Class Discussion Guidelines:

Civility and respect are essential when engaging in productive academic discourse. All communications for this course should be conducted constructively, civilly, and respectfully. Differences in beliefs, opinions, and approaches are to be expected. Please bring any communications you believe to be in violation of this policy to my attention. Active interaction with peers and your instructor is essential to success in this course, paying particular attention to the following:

- Be respectful of others and their opinions, valuing diversity in perspectives, backgrounds, abilities, and experiences.
- Challenging ideas, phenomena and the scholars that we engage with is integral to critical thinking and the scholarly process. Please articulate your written and verbal communications carefully and thoughtfully, recognizing that a positive atmosphere of healthy discourse is encouraged.
- It is important to do the reading! We will be discussing nuanced and often complicated circumstances. Being a productive member of in-class discussions means doing the reading and being prepared to talk about those assignments and how they relate to lectures and concepts discussed in class.

Course schedule/sessions—please complete all readings below each session for that session, unless otherwise specified by Dr. Sperling

Week 1: Introduction

August 16: Syllabus overview, goals and expectations of course

August 18: Syllabus review continued, discussion of general scholarly frameworks


Week 2: American pop culture and politics

August 21: 1950s


August 23: 1960s


August 25: 1970s

Week 3: American pop culture and politics

August 28: 1980s:

August 30: 1990s

September 1: 2000s (writing assignment given)

Week 4: American pop culture and politics

September 4: No class for Labor Day!

September 6: 2010s

September 8: wrap up (writing assignment due)

Week 5: Russian/Soviet pop culture and politics

*We will schedule in-class presentations this week

September 11: 1950s:

September 13: 1960s
September 15: 1970s:

**Week 6:**

September 18: 1980s

September 20: 1990s (short writing assignment given)

September 22: 2000s

**Week 7:**

September 25: 2010s

September 27: Wrap up (short writing assignment due)

September 29: Movie

**Week 8: Korean pop culture and politics**

October 2: 1950s

October 4: 1960s
October 6: Midterm review
  • Come to class with three written questions about the midterm

**Week 9: Midterm! Movie…**

October 9: Midterm

October 11: Movie

October 13: Movie pt 2

**Week 10: Korean pop culture and politics**

October 16: 1970s

October 18: 1980s

October 20: 1990s

**Week 11:**

October 23: 2000s

October 25: 2010s

October 27: No Class—Fall break!

**Week 12: Middle East pop culture and politics**

October 30: 1950s

**November 1: 1960s**

**November 3: 1970s—movie**

**Week 13:**

**November 6: 1980s**

**November 8: 1990s**

**November 10: 2000s**

**Week 14:**

**November 13: 2010s**


**November 15: Wrap up**

**November 17: Presentation preparation**
- As a group, come to class with five written questions about your upcoming presentation
Happy Thanksgiving!

Week 15:

November 27: In class presentations

November 30: In class presentations

December 2: In class presentations

Last day of class:

December 4: Concluding session, prompt for take home final assigned after class. It will be due at the end of finals week.