CULTURAL STUDIES PROGRAM

Office
LA 3334, 410-704-3199

The Program
In the Cultural Studies Program, faculty and students study how meaning is produced and consumed in the process of constructing and inhabiting a culture. Cultural Studies programs cross disciplines in order to engage contexts like gender and sexuality, class, race and ethnicity, globalization, and national identity. This interdisciplinary approach utilizes the methods of inquiry of the humanities, social sciences and critical cultural theory, as well as science, mathematics, economics and health professions.

The program brings together students and faculty who commit to the notion that, in our increasingly global society, diversity reaches far beyond face value. Rather, diversity must be measured in the richness and complexity of ideas and experiences, a depth of understanding that the Cultural Studies Program aims to foster. In the spirit of the university’s liberal arts tradition, the Cultural Studies Program creates a space in which students can be critically engaged, aware, and active in thought, in work, and in the community.

Director: Samuel Collins (Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice)

Affiliated Faculty

Professors: Peter Baker Jr (English), Jennifer Ballengee (English), Joanna Basuray (Nursing), Samuel Collins (Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice), M. Paz Galupo (Psychology), Judith Isaacs (Art + Design, Art History, Art Education), Peter Lev (Electronic Media & Film), John Murungi (Philosophy & Religious Studies)

Associate Professors: Matthew Durington (Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice), Kimberly Katz (History), Paul Miers (English), William Tsitsos (Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice)

Assistant Professors: Ping Fu (Foreign Languages), Ryan King-White (Kinesiology)

Visiting Assistant Professor: Deborah Shaller (English)

Major in Cultural Studies

• Major in Cultural Studies (http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/cultural-studies/cultural-studies)

Minor in Cultural Studies

• Cultural Studies (http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/cultural-studies/cultural-studies-minor)

Courses

CLST 201 INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL STUDIES (3)
Culture’s effect on science, identity, and behavior and on what we hear, see, value and ignore. GenEd II.B.3 or Core: The United States as a Nation.

CLST 202 HONORS INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL STUDIES (3)
Culture’s effect on science, identity, and behavior and on what we hear, see, value and ignore. GenEd II.B.3 or Core: The United States as a Nation.

CLST 300 METHODS OF CULTURAL INQUIRY (3)
Multi-method approach to the critical investigation of complex formations of culture and interpretations of culture. Topics include ethnography; literary theory; cultural historiography; and textual, spatial, and semiotic analysis. Prerequisite: ENGL 102 or ENGL 190. GenEd I.D.

CLST 301 PERSPECTIVES IN GLOBAL CULTURE (3)
Semiotic, linguistic, material, and psychoanalytical approaches to cultural studies and criticism. Prerequisite: CLST 201.

CLST 303 IDENTITY AND CULTURE (3)
Formation and development of class, racial, gender and sexual identity. Prerequisite: CLST 201.

CLST 305 TEXT & CULTURE (3)
Interaction of texts and culture. Topics include literacy, genres, semiotics, reader response, non-print media and textual analysis. Prerequisite: CLST 201.

CLST 307 VISUAL CULTURE (3)
Explores how images are conditioned by cultural attitudes toward race, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation and class. Prerequisite: CLST 201.

CLST 309 PERFORM CULTURE (3)
Various manifestations of performance and self in culture and society examined from a humanistic perspective through literature, film and other media. Prerequisite: CLST 201.

CLST 311 SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & CULTURE (3)
How science and technology interact with culture. Prerequisite: CLST 201. GenEd I.A or Core: Ethical Issues & Perspectives.

CLST 370 TOPICS IN CULTURAL STUDIES (3)
Topics will vary from term to term. May be repeated with a different topic for a maximum of 6 units.

CLST 490 INDEPENDENT STUDY IN CULTURAL STUDIES (3)
Directed reading and research in cultural studies under the supervision of one or more members of the Cultural Studies Affiliated Faculty, dealing with a specific topic or problem selected by the student in consultation with the instructor(s). Prerequisites: CLST 201, CLST 300, and two additional CLST core courses; consent of instructor and program director.

CLST 495 INTERNSHIP IN CULTURAL STUDIES (3)
Placement in position in governmental, non-governmental, or non-profit organization or business which will offer students the practical opportunity to apply skills in critical thinking, oral communication, cultural analysis, and research. Prerequisites: CLST 201, CLST 300, and at least two of the following CLST Core courses: CLST 301, CLST 303, CLST 307, or CLST 311.

CLST 497 CAPSTONE PROJECT IN CULTURAL STUDIES (3)
Research and writing of an extensive project that draws together all elements of the student’s course of study in the major, to be directed by a Cultural Studies Affiliated Faculty member in a chosen area of specialization. Repeatable up to a total of 6 units. Prerequisites: CLST 201; CLST 300; plus four of the following courses: CLST 301, CLST 303, CLST 305, CLST 307, CLST 309, CLST 311, or CLST 370; consent of instructor and program director.