

Politics and Popular Culture B | POU11034

Year	Junior Freshman
ECTS Credits	5
Contact Hours	20 Hours of lectures
Pre-requisite	POU11033 - Politics and Popular Culture A
Semester	2
Module Leader & Lecturer	Dr Sotirios Karampampas
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Module Outline

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the module, students will be able to:

- Identify and explain key theoretical approaches to the study of global popular culture in international politics.
- Critically analyse how cultural texts/artifacts (e.g. films, series, music, memes) engage with global political issues such as nationalism, authoritarianism, war and migration.
- Assess the role of popular culture in the projection of soft power and the construction of geopolitical identities.
- Examine how digital media, fandoms, and cultural industries shape protest cultures and global imaginaries.
- Communicate complex arguments about cultural politics clearly in written and oral forms.
- Reflect on their own media engagement in relation to global political structures and cultural narratives

Module Learning Aims:

The module aims to:

- Introduce students to the theoretical and empirical study of popular culture within international politics.
- Develop a critical understanding of how global cultural forms reflect, reinforce, or resist political power across borders.
- Equip students with the analytical tools to interpret cultural artefacts, global cultural trends, and everyday practices of cultural consumption.
- Foster comparative thinking about how popular culture operates across different geopolitical, economic and institutional contexts.
- Encourage students to engage critically and reflexively with their own cultural environments as sites of political meaning.

Module Content:

this module examines the political dimension of popular culture in international and transnational contexts. Moving beyond the nation-state, it explores how films, TV series, music, digital media, memes, sports and fandoms participate in global power relations, shape political imaginaries, and circulate ideologies across borders. Students will engage with cultural forms through themes including nationalism, postcolonialism, global capitalism, migration, protest and humanitarianism. They will critically engage with cultural texts and trends to understand how popular culture functions as both a site of domination and resistance in world politics. The module combines theoretical perspectives from international relations and cultural studies with empirical case studies, enabling students to critically analyse how popular culture both shapes and reflects the global political order.

Assessment

Discussion Point Submission and Tutorial Attendance 10%

Mid-Term Essay 40%

Final Essay 50%

Recommended Reading List

Campell, J. R. (2023). The politics and international relations of fantasy films and television: To win or die. Springer Nature.

Crothers, L. (2021). Globalisation and American popular culture, 5th edition. Rowman & Littlefield.

Dittmer, J., & Bos, D. (2019). Popular culture, geopolitics, and identity. 2nd edition. Rowman & Littlefield.

Miller T. (eds.) (2015). The Routledge companion to global political culture. Routledge.

Sachleben, M. A. (2014), World politics on screen: Understanding international relations through popular culture. The University Press of Kentucky.