### Course Title
Topics in Cultural Theory

### Course Code
CUS3218

### Recommended Study Year
3-4

### No. of Credits/Term
3

### Mode of Tuition
Sectional Approach

### Class Contact Hours
3 hours per week

### Category in Major Prog.
Elective

### Prerequisite(s)
Nil

### Co-requisite(s)
Nil

### Exclusion(s)
Nil

### Brief Course Description
The notion of “culture” has been undergoing changes and redefinitions over the past decades. Part of the impetus that has initiated those changes comes from the insistence on the importance of theory or theoretical reflection. This course tries to map out a concise landscape of contemporary cultural theory and its paradigmatic changes over the last few decades. Specific topics to be covered may vary from year to year, this course will highlight in particular the legacies and impacts of Western Marxism, structuralism, feminism, psychoanalysis and postmodernism.

### Aims
This advanced introduction to cultural theories aims at helping the students to identify different social and intellectual contexts in which controversial cultural issues have been conceptualized and discussed today. Students will learn how such changes in theory are related to the way we re-assess the significance and functions of culture, how we are involved in its production and reproduction, and with what possibilities and price one can resist its domination and present one’s own demand for it.

### Learning Outcomes
It is hoped that at the end of the course students will be able to

1. identify different social and intellectual contexts in which controversial cultural issues have been conceptualized and discussed today;
2. understand and clearly present theoretical arguments of contemporary cultural issues.

### Indicative Content
Representative literary, journalistic, historical and philosophical texts in the development of cultural theories in both the local and international contexts will be discussed. Specific content to be covered may vary from year to year.

### Teaching Method
Seminars will be conducted, where students will discuss selected literary, journalistic, historical and philosophical texts.

### Measurement of Learning
1. Class discussion and oral presentation to measure students’ skills in
Outcomes

1. Presenting theoretical arguments of contemporary cultural issues;
2. Written assignment and oral presentation to measure students’ ability in identifying different social and intellectual contexts in which controversial cultural issues have been conceptualized and discussed;
3. Final examination to measure students’ understanding of theoretical arguments on contemporary cultural issues.

Assessment

Assessment will focus on the critical understanding of the texts and the appreciation of the theoretical issues raised in the context of the students’ own intellectual concerns. 70% of the final grade will be based on continuous assessment, including class participation, presentation, and writing assignments. Another 30% of the final grade goes to the final examination.

Required/Essential Readings:

Varying from year to year.

Recommendation/Supplementary Readings:

Varying from year to year.