

English/CLS 350
Summer 2008 – URI in England Program
Professor C. Betensky

Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory: British Cultural Studies

This course will introduce students to the work of a very influential group of critical thinkers who developed the approach to literature, culture, and society that came to be known as British Cultural Studies. The founders of the group questioned (and their heirs continue to question) the obviousness of British cultural values and traditions, rethinking them in terms of power, class, race, nation, and gender.

Tentative reading list:

Excerpt from Matthew Arnold, *Culture and Anarchy*

Excerpt from Hoggart, "The Uses of Literacy" (response to Matthew Arnold)

Althusser, "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses"; Benjamin, "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction"

Raymond Williams, excerpts from *Keywords*

Stuart Hall, selections from anthology called *Stuart Hall: Critical Dialogues: "Encoding/Decoding"; "What is This Black in Black Popular Culture"*

Excerpt from Angela McRobbie, *Feminism and Youth Culture*

Excerpt from Paul Gilroy, *There Ain't No Black in the Union Jack*

Meghan Morris, "Things to do with Shopping Centres"

Selections from *Rude Britannia*, Mira Jorji, ed.

Selections from *British Cultural Studies: Geography, Nationality, Identity*, Morly and Robins, eds.