

# *Sociology 210*

## *Popular Culture*

### *Fall 2015*

Instructor: Nicholas Russ, M.A History, M.A African American Studies  
Office Hours Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-10:30 or By app D 200 F  
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#### Course Description

What makes popular culture "popular" and who decides for us? Wrestle with the notion of whether popular culture defines society, or if society defines popular culture; by studying television, music, film, and more. Themes include audience reception, network societies, and popular culture on a global scale. We will also be examining how popular culture influences our ideas about race, gender, class and other social constructions.

Required Text: Pop Culture Freaks: Identity, Mass Media and Society. Dustin Kidd

#### What is expected of you?

In this class I am looking for you to challenge yourself and display through assigned writings, quizzes and group presentations that you're wrestling with the course material. You're ultimate success in this class is contingent on your ability to engage with the material and your classmates.

#### Assignments

##### Opinion Papers / 30 points

There will be 3 opinion papers, worth 10 points each, on important sociological questions that will be assigned at the beginning of the week. This assignment will be two pages long, double-spaced and will be collected on the following Monday.

##### Quizzes/ 50 points

There will be 5 quizzes, all worth 10 points, over the course readings.

Group Presentation Project

Final Exam