January Term at the University of Roehampton

**Department: Media, Culture and Language**  
**Module Title: Media and Social Change: Class, Race and Ethnicity**  
**Credit rating: 20**

**Rationale**

This module focuses on the ways in which non-fiction media such as news, documentary, advertising, lifestyle journalism and popular factual television articulate and explore contemporary experiences of profound social change. It focuses especially on the changing landscape of social class, race and ethnicity and asks how the media engages with these changes and presents them to its publics.

**Learning outcomes**

At the end of this module the student will:

- Understand recent changing social and economic conditions and their relationship to the formation and development of social identities
- Engage critically with current academic, political and media debates about the representation of social class, race and ethnicity
- Critically reflect upon and evaluate contested concepts such as ‘home’, ‘nation’, ‘race’, ‘post-race’, ‘class’ and ‘post-class’
- Use relevant critical theory and concepts to research and critically analyse media representations

**Key Skills**

Students who have successfully taken the module should be able to:

- Conduct research independently
- Organise their ideas and communicate them in spoken and written form
- Manage their time effectively and meet deadlines
- Work with their peers supportively and effectively

**Suggested topics may include:**

- Class, gender and intersectionality
- The politics of cultural identity
- Media myths and narratives of social aspiration and social mobility
- Class labelling, stigma and critical judgment
- Depictions of the upper and elite classes
- Depictions of the ‘underclass’
- Discourses of race and immigration
- Discourses of home and belonging
Teaching and learning methods

Teaching will be through lectures, seminars, cultural visits and via online independent learning tasks. Students are invited to contribute to seminars from any disciplinary standpoint and will be expected to make a presentation in non-technical language on a topic of their choice related to class, race and/or ethnicity.

Students will experience two weeks of real-time learning at the end of which they will make an assessed 10 minute presentation followed by a Q and A to their peers.

During the third week students will submit a series of short independent study exercises to further build their confidence and knowledge in the field. The lecturer will be available online to ensure that you are supported in completing the tasks and to give you feedback on your progress.

The module concludes with the submission of a 2000 word essay.

Assessment

Assessment is in two parts:
1. One individual presentation (10 minutes plus Q and A) [constituting 20% of the final grade]

2. 2000 word written component [constituting 80% of the final grade]

Indicative bibliography

Essential text
n/a

Recommended texts


Further reading:


