

# Cultural studies: Some questions

International Institute for Popular Culture, University of Turku

April-May 2015

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## Overview

This is a very abbreviated version of my regular graduate seminar on cultural studies. That seminar generally runs for four months, requires ~300 pages of reading per week . . . and still feels as if it's inadequate to the task at hand. There are always essays that I feel bad about leaving off the syllabus (even though including them would make an already heavy reading load completely unmanageable), and major subtopics that we don't have time to cover (even though including them would extend the course by another month or three).

This seminar is only three weeks long and requires only ~150 pages of reading each week. So it's even further from being an exhaustive survey of cultural studies . . . though such a survey is probably impossible anyway. In the end, cultural studies is too sprawling, too multi-faceted, too shape-shifting to be captured neatly in a single course. We won't be able to examine cultural studies' tangled and fractious history in full, but we will trace out enough of that backstory to start making sense of its current shape and circumstances. We won't be able to cover all the major issues that occupy cultural studies' attention today, though we will gesture in the direction of at least some of these. And we won't be able to map out cultural studies' current trajectories with absolute precision, but we will wrestle with the question of where it might -- and should -- head in the future.

## Reading schedule

### 21 April -- What?

Stuart Hall, "The Emergence of Cultural Studies and the Crisis in the Humanities"

Stuart Hall, "Cultural Studies and Its Theoretical Legacies"

Meaghan Morris, "A Question of Cultural Studies"

Lawrence Grossberg, "The Heart of Cultural Studies"

Gilbert B. Rodman, *Why Cultural Studies?*, Preface, Chs. 1-2

### 28 April -- Where?

Raymond Williams, "The Future of Cultural Studies"

Handel K. Wright, "Dare We De-centre Birmingham?: Troubling the 'Origin' and Trajectories of Cultural Studies"

Maureen McNeil, "De-centring or Re-focusing Cultural Studies: A Response to Handel K. Wright"

Ann Gray, "Formations of Cultural Studies"

Hudson Vincent, "Space for Cultural Studies: Conversations With the Centre"

Stuart Hall, "Stuart Hall Interview -- 2 June 2011"

Charlotte Brunsdon, "On Being Made History"

Gilbert B. Rodman, *Why Cultural Studies?*, Ch. 4

### 5 May -- Why?

Mike Rustin, Doreen Massey, Jeremy Gilbert, and Stuart Hall, "Cultural Studies Now"

Briankle Chang, John Clarke, Gregory J. Seigworth, Toby Miller, and Ann Hetzel Gunkel, "Forum: On *Cultural Studies in the Future Tense* by Lawrence Grossberg"

Lawrence Grossberg, "Will Work for Cultural Studies"

Gilbert B. Rodman, *Why Cultural Studies?*, Chs. 3, 5

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