

**HUM 1000 Freshman Humanities**  
**Introduction to American Popular Culture**  
**Dr. Chris Frongillo**  
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**FTT**

**Course Description:**

This course provides a freshman-level survey of the critical issues and approaches in the study of American Popular Culture. We will explore the ways in which each of us uses and, in turn, is used by pop culture. Because popular culture envelops us so completely, influencing how we think, feel, act, and live in countless ways, we will use our own expertise as consumers as a take-off point for our investigations into this exciting field of study. In addition, we analyze how such critical factors as ethnicity, race, gender, class, and sexuality are shaped by their representation in the various media. The students in this class are expected to participate in frequent classroom discussions, to complete several reading quizzes, and to write a few short essays, including a film/television review, a personal narrative, and an analysis of an advertisement.

**Required Text:**

Mirror on America, eds. Mims and Nollen

**Grading:**

90-100%=A  
80-89%=B  
70-79%=C  
60-69%=D  
59 and less=F

**Course Regulations:**

--Any form of academic dishonesty will result in the offending student receiving an F for the course.  
--Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated.

**Course Outline:**

WEEK	1: introduction and course information; "What is American Pop Culture?"
WEEKS	2-4: Gender, Body Image, and Cultural Identity; chpts. 1-3 in <u>MOA</u>
WEEKS	5-8: Cultural Identity, Fashion, Marketing, Film, Music; chpts. 4-7 in <u>MOA</u>
WEEKS	9-12: Music, Sports, Leisure, Research; chpts. 8-10 in <u>MOA</u>
WEEKS	13-15: Connecting to Culture; class presentations; prepare for final "Mall Culture" "Loving Las Vegas"