



Cover Images:

1. From *Last of the Teddy Girls* ©TopFoto/Ken Russell / The Image Works

2. Rude Boys, 1966. Michael Ochs Archives/Getty Images



Contact Info

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“Acting Out in Groups”: Subculture, Narrative, Style

ENGL 464: TWENTIETH-CENTURY STUDIES

University of British Columbia | Term 2 Winter 2015-2016

Vital Info

- Course meets: Tue-Thu: 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM in SWNG-105
- Office hours: Tue-Thu 11:00 to 12:00 and by appointment

Course Description

The title of this course, taken from a volume edited by Laurence Rickels in 1999, points to the collectivist articulations of struggle, transgression, and confrontation represented in subcultural literatures and practices, as well as to their frequent mobilization of the playful, fun, parodic, comedic, ironic, camp or drag. Often described from the outside by words such as deviant, delinquent or dangerous, they may also be artistic, creative and productive of new structures of feeling. Our course objectives are to better understand the 20th century, sophisticate our analytical theories and concepts about group dynamics, subcultures and parent cultures, and predict some 21st-century traces and practices.

Book List

1. *The Autobiography of Alice B Toklas*
2. *Berlin Stories*
3. *Clockwork Orange*
4. *The Buddha of Suburbia*
5. *The Commitments*
6. *Pattern Recognition*
7. *Subculture: The Meaning of Style*

Films

An optional screening of the following films will be offered outside of our regular class meeting time; films may also be available from a library, Netflix or another streaming service. ALL SCREENINGS ARE IN BUCH D323 starting at 4:00 pm sharp.

1. *Clockwork Orange* (1971; dir. Stanley Kubrick) -- FEB 10
2. *QUADROPHENIA* (1979; dir. Franc Roddam) -- MAR 2
3. *The Commitments* (1991; dir. Alan Parker) -- MAR 14
4. *Trainspotting* (1996; dir. Danny Boyle) -- APR 4. Alternative choices to this film are: *My Beautiful Laundrette*, *Sammy and Rosie Get Laid*, or *Paris Is Burning*. Each of the alternative choices has been placed on course reserve at Koerner Library and may be screened there.

What You Will Do

In this course, you will read and analyze a range of literature, media and films which will give you the opportunity to identify, compare, explain and discuss various aspects and issues of urban subculture experience that contribute to the 20th-century literary and social history of North America, Britain and Ireland.

Requirements consist of class participation, a portfolio assignment which includes research and four short or two long issue/artifact analysis papers and a final examination. Participation comprises a varied set of activities during class meetings, such as answering questions, speaking during group discussions and giving one prepared solo presentation. I may give brief occasional reading quizzes (answer two out of three factual questions, **no make-ups**), in order to motivate you to keep up with the reading schedule.

25% Participation, including a prepared, brief presentation (15%) and reading quizzes

40% Portfolio

35% Final examination

Your presentation and portfolio assignments, available on Connect, include a detailed rubric so that you know ahead of time how they will be marked. I will also be available in office hours or by appointment for individual conferences about your assignments or other course-related matters as you may wish.

Course Schedule

Jan 5 – Course Introduction.

Jan 7 – “Notes on the Status of the Concept Subculture” [on Connect].
The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas.

Jan 12 – *Subculture: The Meaning of Style*: Introduction and Chapter 1.
The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas.

Jan 14 – *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas.*

Jan 19 – *Subculture: The Meaning of Style*: Chapter 2, 3.
Berlin Stories: “The Last of Mr. Norris.”

Jan 21 – *Berlin Stories*: “The Last of Mr. Norris.”

Jan 26 – *Berlin Stories*: “The Last of Mr. Norris.”
“Subcultural Conflict and Working-Class Community.”

Jan 28 – *Clockwork Orange* (book).

Feb 2 – *Clockwork Orange* (book).

Feb 4 – *Clockwork Orange* (book).

Feb 9 – *Clockwork Orange* (discuss film).

Feb 11 – “The World Ozymandias Made: Utopias in the Superhero Comic, Subculture, and the Conservation of Difference.”

Feb 15-19 – **No class: Reading Week**

Feb 23 – *Subculture: The Meaning of Style*: Chapter 4.
The Buddha of Suburbia.

Feb 25 – *The Buddha of Suburbia.*

Mar 1 – *The Buddha of Suburbia.*

Mar 3 – Discuss *QUADROPHENIA*.

Mar 8 – “Girls and Subcultures” (parts 1 and 2). *The Commitments* (book).

Mar 10 – *The Commitments* (book).

Mar 15 – *The Commitments* (discuss film).

Mar 17 – *Subculture: The Meaning of Style*: Chapters 5, 6, 7

Mar 22 – *Subculture: The Meaning of Style*: Chapters 8, 9 and Conclusion.

Mar 24 – *Pattern Recognition*.

Mar 29 – *Pattern Recognition*.

Mar 31 – *Pattern Recognition*.

Apr 5 – **Portfolios due**. Discuss final films.

Apr 7 – Wrap-up of course and projects.

Exam period Apr 12-27-- **Final examination, TBA**

Other topics include: the history of the Guy Fawkes mask, musical evolutions, zines, -cons, and fandoms, when subcultures go mainstream, media theory, deviance and revolution, avatar style. You will have the freedom to explore other areas and topics in your portfolio projects and presentation.

Please Also Know

Films, texts, and lecture materials may contain or refer to mature themes, violence, sexuality, or conflictual subject matter.

The course adheres to the university’s strict rule against plagiarism. *If you represent the words, productions or ideas of anyone else as your own, you become subject to the disciplinary processes of the university concerning plagiarism, and may fail the course or be expelled from the university.* If you have any questions about what counts as plagiarism, please ask me (before you submit the assignment).

Anyone with a documented disability is gently encouraged to contact the Access and Diversity Office in Brock Hall, 1203- 1874 East Mall (tele: 604.822.5844) for accommodations and support services. Other helpful programs available to all registered students are the academic services described at <http://students.ubc.ca/success>, and UBC Counselling Services tele: 604.822.3811 or, after hours, for anyone in distress, the Vancouver Crisis Line, tele: 800.784.2433.