

ΠΕΡΙΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΜΑΘΗΜΑΤΟΣ (Course Syllabus)

1. General

School	School of Humanities and Social Sciences		
Department	Department of Culture, Creative Media and Industries		
Study Level	Undergraduate		
Course code	ΕΠ681	Semester	6 th & 8 th
Course Title	Cultural Labour		
Autonomous Teaching Activities		Weekly Teaching Hours	Credits
Lectures and Tutorials		3	6
Course Type <i>Υποβάθρου, Γενικών Γνώσεων, Επιστημονικής Περιοχής, Ανάπτυξης Δεξιοτήτων</i>	Scientific area		
Prerequisites:			
Course teaching and evaluation language:	Greek		
The course is offered to Erasmus incoming students			
Course Page (URL)			

2. Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcomes

Describe the learning outcomes of the course, the specific knowledge, skills and abilities students will acquire upon successful completion of the course of the appropriate level.

Upon successful completion of the course students will:

- Have acquired specialised theoretical knowledge of the characteristics of work in the cultural and creative industries
- Have understood why cultural labour is studied as a model for all professional fields, and what the shift towards the knowledge economy and the creative economy entails
- Have examined the contradictions of cultural labour under capitalism, and are familiar with the ways in which value is produced and cultural labour is controlled
- Have examined the particular characteristics of work and working conditions across specific cultural and creative sectors (performing arts, music industries, visual arts) as well as in the digital economy
- Have become familiar with scholarly debates around immaterial labour, affective labour, and the emergence of the contemporary creative precariat
- Have engaged with qualitative and quantitative methodologies aimed at mapping the impact of cultural work at both the personal and socioeconomic level
- Have gained a comprehensive understanding of cultural labour, including the structural inequalities (class, gender, race) and geographical disparities reproduced through labour practices and working conditions
- Are able to identify mechanisms of divergence as well as factors that affect the overall quality of cultural output
- Have reflected critically on the emergence of the gig economy and platform-mediated work

Skills:

- Are able to critically analyse different models of work in the Cultural and Creative Industries and identify their social, economic and institutional implications

- Are able to connect theoretical frameworks with empirical studies on labour across different CCI sectors
- Are familiar with contemporary models of work and organization of work in the CCIs
- Have developed reflective skills regarding their own future career in the CCIs

Competences:

- Can relate labour practices in the CCI sectors to broader social and economic transformations (knowledge economy, digitalisation, platformisation)
- Can identify and analyse gender, racial and other inequalities reproduced within spaces of cultural production
- Can synthesise theoretical and empirical material to understand the contradictions of cultural work

General Skills

Taking into account the general competencies that the graduate must have acquired (as listed in the Diploma Supplement and listed below), which one (s) does the course aim for?

Research, analyze and synthesize data and information, using the necessary technologies

Adaptation to new situations

Decision making

Independent work

Teamwork

Working in an international environment

Working in an interdisciplinary environment

Production of new research ideas Project design and management

Respect for diversity and multiculturalism

Respect for the natural environment

Demonstrate social, professional and ethical responsibility and gender sensitivity

Exercising criticism and self-criticism

Promoting free, creative and inductive thinking

The course aims at cultivating the following skills:

- Promotion of free, creative and inductive thinking
- Generation of new research ideas
- Exercise of critical thinking and self-reflection

3. Course Content

The Cultural and Creative Industries have long been an attractive workplace for young, highly skilled workers, promising a creative and fulfilling professional life. Through the lens of cultural labour, the module examines broader transformations in the world of work: precarity, overwork, employment as a product of networking, the erosion of boundaries between personal and professional time, and the risk that work diminishes rather than enriches quality of life. By exploring the particular working conditions and modes of production that prevail in the cultural and creative sectors (intellectual property frameworks, the status of artists, ownership concentration, education), the module investigates cultural labour as a site of self-realisation, collective organisation, and control - both within and beyond the digital condition. The module covers the following topics:

- Introduction to the concept of cultural labour
- Immaterial labour, affect, and passion
- Working conditions, practices, and tensions
- Gender, race, and class in cultural work
- The locus of cultural labour: metropolises and/or peripheries
- Methodological approaches to the study of cultural labour: qualitative and quantitative methods, career mapping, case studies
- Platforms, the gig economy, and the algorithmic management of labour
- Intellectual property and creative production within and beyond the digital condition
- Creative collectives and cultural workers' unions
- Cultural policies and labour interventions: public policies, institutional frameworks, and international practices for improving working conditions

4. Instructive and Learning Methods - Evaluation

Delivery Method.

Delivered by physical presence

Use of IT's in teaching and communication with students	• PowerPoint presentations • Support Learning Process via the e-class platform • Electronic communication with students	
Teaching Structure <i>The methods of teaching are described in detail</i> <i>The student study hours for each learning activity are recorded as well as the non-instructional study hours so that the overall workload at semester level corresponds to ECTS standards.</i>	Methods	Semester Work Load
	Lectures and seminars	39
	Study and analysis of literature	56
	Preparation for exams	30
	Course Total (25 Hrs. Work Load per Credit Unit)	125
Student Evaluation <i>Description of the evaluation procedure</i>	Assessment Process • Participation in lecture discussions: 10% • Oral examination at the end of the semester: 90% Student Assessment Methods • Participation in lecture discussions • Written examination with essay questions and problem-solving tasks Communication of Assessment Criteria • In the undergraduate programme study guide	

5. Recommended Readings

Advised Bibliography:

Karakioulafi, C., Theodosiou, S., Baltzis, A., Tsioulakis, Y., Kokkinou, C. (eds.). *Precarity Above and Below the Stage: Critical Approaches to Labour in the Performing Arts*. Ioannina, Isnafi.
<https://creativelabour.soc.uoc.gr/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/%CE%A0%CE%BB%CE%AE%CF%81%CE%B7%CF%82-%CE%A4%CF%8C%CE%BC%CE%BF%CF%82.pdf> (in Greek)

Banks, M. (2007). *The Politics of Cultural Work*. Palgrave Macmillan UK.
<https://doi.org/10.1057/9780230288713>

Banks, M., Gill, R., & Taylor, S. (Eds). (2013). *Theorizing cultural work: Labour, continuity and change in the cultural and creative industries*. Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group.

Hesmondhalgh, D., & Baker, S. (2011). *Creative labour: Media work in three cultural industries*. Routledge.

McKinlay, A., & Smith, C. (Eds). (2009). *Creative labour: Working in the creative industries*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Journals:

The Sociological Review <https://journals.sagepub.com/home/SOR>

International Journal of Cultural Studies <https://journals.sagepub.com/home/ICS>