

Date: Thu, 11 Sep 1997 12:21:49 -0400 (EDT)
From: Barbara Willis Awoniyi <bawoniy@emory.edu>
X-Sender: bawoniy@curly.cc.emory.edu
To: George Gerbner <GGerbner@pobox.asc.upenn.edu>
Subject: For your feedback
MIME-Version: 1.0

Hello George:

Summer is over and I am back with the books for my senior year here at Candler. I hope that you and your wife had a fulfilling summer. Some interesting things are happening here. We are in the throws of putting together a course proposed for Spring, 98 on media and religion. Though I fear imposing this on you, I do need your

feedback on this proposed curriculum. The course is proposed as interdisciplinary, requiring readings in media studies, sociological and cultural theory, theology and moral/ethical interpretation of media culture. Each week there is a case study. Since it is interdisciplinary and there is no 1 professor assigned to teach the course, we have asked professors of ethics, theology, sociology and christian education to co-instruct. With this info. in mind, below is an overview of the proposal.

Week 1: Introduction
Reading Neil Postman
Video Jennings IN the Name of God

W. 2-3 Interpret Culture - sociological perspectives
Rdg. - Geertz, Relig as a Cultural System and Ethos from Inter of Culture
Julie Dash
Case Study - Daughter of the Dust
W. 4-5
Intoduction to Communications theory and cultural studies
Rdg- Book - Media Studies: A Reader
Case Study - Black Orpheus

W. 6-7
Ritual Communication
Rdg - Book Communication as Culture - by Carey
Case - Babette's Feast

We 8-9
Oral, Literate and Electronic Culture
Rdg - Orality and Literacy: The Technologizing of the Word by Ong
Boomershine's Religious Educat and Media Change
Case Study - Hip-Hop/rap

W 10-11
Critical response to electronic media and consumer culture
Video - Bill Moyer's Consuming Images
Rdg - Postman

Wk 12-13
Theological critiques of electronic media
Case - Spitfire Grill
Rdg- Humiliation oof the Word by Ellul,

Wk 14-15
Moral and theological imagination in electronic culture

Rdg - Image and Culture by William Lynch or Real Presences by Steiner
Case - Millenium, Power of Two, The Visit, Out of the Tomb, One of Us.

Books - by Jacques Ellul
Marris, et al - Media Studies
Neil Postman - Amusing

So, what do you think? If you receive this anytime sooooon and have time to reflect, it would be most helpful. I am concerned that the materials selected do not adequately address the description. For example, when we introduce hip hop, I know of other books and scholars, Michael Dyson for example who have given extensive critique to this subject. So, what I am suggesting is that I am concerned that the course as topically structured may limit the depth and understanding of this subject). Also, do you think the course books give full range to the general subjects covered?

I would appreciate any feedback a busy and popular guru like you can provide.

Thanks George
Barb. A.