

CUL120

1. What is Cultural studies

- Very diverse topic
- Studying different and diverse cultures (gender, Australian, nationality, football etc.)
- Studying of all things "cultured"
- ***"Cultural studies is an innovative interdisciplinary field of research and teaching that investigates the ways in which 'culture creates and transforms individual experiences, everyday life, social relations and power.'" – cultural studies program, University of North Carolina 2013***
 - Power relationships / hierarchies
 - Looks at cultures in all its ways
- Cultural studies is concerned with:
 - How people shape their lives – how we are co-creators of the world we live in
 - How those lives and identities are shaped by their encounters with others:
 - People
 - Institutions
 - Knowledge
- Where did cultural studies come from?
 - Origins in the UK in the late 50s and early 60s
 - Developed in the 70-80s and was established by the 90s
 - Cultural studies was founded on *dissent*
 - Dissent – cultural, commitment to social justice / of their own cultural formation and world, criticizing universities and the knowledge they disseminate
 - Older disciplines were too narrow, were limiting
- Can encompass / is the uninvited guest of:
 - History
 - Sociology
 - Media studies
 - Anthropology
 - Philosophy
 - Cultural theory
 - English
 - Politics
 - Gender Studies

2. What is Culture

- *"Culture is one of the two or three most complicated words in the English language"* – Raymond Williams Keywords 1976:76)
- Competing meanings:
 - 1. Culture as: the state of being cultured