



**Course** HONS 3199.HN5  
**Course Title** Collegium V Honors Readings:  
**Camp, Kitsch, Cuteness**  
**Professor** Dr. Josef Nguyen (he/him/his)  
**Term** Spring 2023  
**Meetings** Wednesdays, 4:00-4:50PM in AD 2.238

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### Professor's Contact Information

**Dr. Josef Nguyen (he/him/his)**  
**Email Address** [josef.nguyen@utdallas.edu](mailto:josef.nguyen@utdallas.edu)  
Please format and address all emails regarding the class professionally, include the course information in the subject line, and allow up to 24 hours for responses  
**Office Location** ATC 3.617  
**Office Hours** By email appointment, with in-office and online options  
**Office Phone** 972.883.7552

### General Course Information

**Restrictions** Prerequisite: Collegium V Honors students only

**Description** This Collegium V Honors Reading Course investigates how aesthetic and political practices of camp, kitsch, and cuteness negotiate and contest dominant and normative cultural identities, meanings, and relations, particularly in terms of gender, race, sexuality, class, and other dimensions of social identity and difference. Particular attention will be paid to the emergence and transformation of camp, kitsch, and cuteness as recognizable aesthetic frames following the modern rise of industrial mass production, consumerism and advertising, and the advent of digital culture.

**Learning Outcomes** Students will:

- Develop facility with sociohistorically situated close textual analysis of a range of media texts
- Advance proficiencies in critical thinking, research, and writing
- Incorporate insights from existing scholarship and media production into their own research and creative practice

**Required Texts & Materials** *But I'm a Cheerleader* (Jamie Babbit, 1999) [film]  
*Camp* (Todd Graff, 2003) [film]

Additional media, course readings, assignment instructions, and assignment submissions are managed through Box. You will receive two Box invitations: one for a general folder for the course (for readings and assignment instructions) and one for an individual private folder for the course (for assignment submissions).

Course announcements are handled on eLearning and sent via email.

**Optional Material** There is also a Discord server to facilitate community during and outside of class, which students can join if they wish. This is not a requirement.

To join the class Discord server, please email the instructor with your Discord handle and four-digit tag (username#0000).

### Course Policies

<b>Grading Criteria</b>	Thoughtful Class Engagement	50%
	Camp, Kitsch, Cuteness Journal	15%
	Aesthetic Statement	15%
	Final Project	20%

**Accommodation** Students with disabilities are encouraged to utilize the on-campus resources at the Office of Student AccessAbility. You can contact the office at 972-883-6104 or by email: [studentaccessability@utdallas.edu](mailto:studentaccessability@utdallas.edu). Their office is located in the Student Service Building (SSB), suite 3.200. They can provide documentation and details for accommodations to address your individual needs. If you need any special accommodations to complete this course successfully, please provide me with this information as soon as possible, so we can make appropriate arrangements.

**Classroom Conduct** It is our responsibility to work together to produce a classroom environment where everyone can share, discuss, and question the materials at hand as well as contribute their own work respectfully and productively. Conflicting perspectives are unavoidable. To ensure that participants feel comfortable contributing a diverse set of thoughts, comments, and views, we will not use oppressive or harmful language, tolerate harassment, personal attacks, and other forms of actions that unduly distract from the educational mission and inflict emotional, physical, or psychological harm on those involved.

Part of the role of encouraging a diverse learning environment is acknowledging that individuals should feel safe and respected to contribute to the classroom in good faith. This involves not only allowing everyone opportunities to contribute their thoughts but to be mindful of how we recognize and address others. Do not assume things about others' identities, backgrounds, or experiences—whether that is age, race, gender, sexuality, ability, class, etc... Address people by their names, pronouns, and other identifiers that they disclose. Avoid insisting on imposing identity markers onto others. Allow people to self-identify as they feel comfortable.

What you share with and create for this class reflects not only you as both a student and a civic subject, but it also reflects on me as your instructor, the class as a learning community, and UT Dallas as an academic institution.

Please discuss with me any concerns you have regarding an unsafe or hostile classroom environment, particularly if something arises that causes distress.

**Class Attendance** Attend class regularly and in full. Any absences should include documentation of a valid excuse (family or medical emergency, for example). Unexcused absences may impact course grades. Discuss upcoming potential absences with me to make appropriate arrangements.

Arriving more than 30 minutes late or leaving more than 30 minutes early, without prior clearance, may be grounds for marking that day as an absence. Failure to prepare for class participation (such as not having done the necessary reading) will also be regarded as conditions for an absence.

- Technology in the Classroom** Laptops and computers can be used in the classroom solely for purposes directly pertinent to the activities and discussions at-hand. Excessive misuse of technology in the classroom will result in an absence for the day.
- Class Materials** The instructor may provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course; however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).
- Class Recordings** Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).
- Late Work** Late work will be penalized 10% (a full letter grade) for each 24-hour period beyond the deadline and will not receive written feedback by default. For written feedback on a late assignment, please send an email request. If you need an extension, let me know in advance so we can make arrangements.
- Academic Honesty** All work must be original for this class. Plagiarism is using the words and materials of others as if they were your own. It is a serious offense with consequences. Use proper citation to indicate the use of other people's work to strengthen your own. All suspicions of plagiarism will be investigated. Please consult [[utdallas.edu/dept/graddean/gspolDishonesty.htm](http://utdallas.edu/dept/graddean/gspolDishonesty.htm)].
- Comet Creed** *This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same: "As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do."*
- Academic Support Resources** *The information contained in the following link lists the University's academic support resources for all students. Please go to [[go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources](http://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources)].*
- UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures** *The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please review the sections regarding the [credit/no credit](#) grading option and withdrawal from class. Please go to [[go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies](http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies)] for these policies.*

## Assignments & Academic Calendar

- Week 01: Wednesday, 18 January 2023**  
**Getting Started** IN CLASS:  
Syllabus Overview  
Class Introductions  
Introduce Camp, Kitsch, Cuteness Journal
- Week 02: Wednesday, 25 January 2023**  
**On Kitsch** BEFORE CLASS:  
READ: Peter Ward, "The Trash Aesthetic," *Kitsch in Sync: A Consumer's Guide to Bad Taste*  
SUBMIT TO INDIVIDUAL BOX FOLDER: Example of High Art on Mass Market Commodity
- Week 03: Wednesday, 1 February 2023**  
**On Camp** BEFORE CLASS:  
READ: Richard Dyer, "It's Being So Camp as Keeps Us Going," *The Culture of Queers*  
WATCH: Vogue, "Inside Designer Anna Sui's Other Worldly Apartment Filled with Wonderful Objects,"  
[[youtube.com/watch?v=CgbbqQAsOpk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CgbbqQAsOpk)]
- Week 04: Wednesday, 8 February 2023**  
**On Cuteness** BEFORE CLASS:  
READ: Frances Richmond, "Fifteen Theses on the Cute,"  
[[cabinetmagazine.org/issues/4/richard.php](http://cabinetmagazine.org/issues/4/richard.php)]  
WATCH: Vox, "How a Melancholy Egg Took Over Japan,"  
[[youtube.com/watch?v=CTAnJTB9roI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CTAnJTB9roI)]
- IN CLASS:  
Introduce Aesthetic Statement
- Week 05: Wednesday, 15 February 2023**  
**Work on Aesthetic Statement** **NO CLASS MEETING**  
**Aesthetic Statement due by 11:59PM**
- Week 06: Wednesday, 22 February 2023**  
**On Kittens\*** BEFORE CLASS:  
WATCH: Bongo Cat,  
bad meow, [[youtube.com/watch?v=rXMB5WSCVks](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXMB5WSCVks)];  
Despacito, [[youtube.com/watch?v=d1WmzZjbfKQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d1WmzZjbfKQ)]; and  
Chandelier, [[youtube.com/watch?v=3pqknH3nkF4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3pqknH3nkF4)]  
WATCH: Carly Rae Jepsen, "Now that I Found You,"  
[[youtube.com/watch?v=CnGjfxJqf6I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CnGjfxJqf6I)]
- Week 07: Wednesday, 1 March 2023**  
**On Doges\*** BEFORE CLASS:  
WATCH: Fritz Dog, "Fritz Learns to Catch Compilation #1,"  
[[youtube.com/watch?v=6w2UxDdhZPk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6w2UxDdhZPk)]  
WATCH: Marshmello ft. Bastille, "Happier,"  
[[youtube.com/watch?v=m7Bc3pLyij0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7Bc3pLyij0)]

**Week 08: Wednesday, 8 March 2023**  
**On Monsters\*** BEFORE CLASS:  
WATCH: Lucas the Spider, “Scary Stories,”  
[[youtube.com/watch?v=sXmTkRdENNg](https://youtube.com/watch?v=sXmTkRdENNg)]  
WATCH: Monstrum, “Kasogonagá: Sky Deity and Absolute Cutie,”  
[[youtube.com/watch?v=zHiCcdEeGFQ](https://youtube.com/watch?v=zHiCcdEeGFQ)]

**SPRING BREAK** **Wednesday, 15 March 2023**  
**NO CLASS MEETING**

**Week 09: Wednesday, 22 March 2023**  
**On Fashion\*** BEFORE CLASS:  
WATCH: George Michael, “Too Funky,”  
[[youtube.com/watch?v=JQ2DVwSVIIo](https://youtube.com/watch?v=JQ2DVwSVIIo)]  
WATCH: Candidly Nicole, “Think Drag with RuPaul,”  
[[youtube.com/watch?v=d84HQKj99XU](https://youtube.com/watch?v=d84HQKj99XU)]

IN CLASS:  
Introduce Final Project

**Week 10: Wednesday, 29 March 2023**  
**On Dolls\*** BEFORE CLASS:  
WATCH: Aqua, “Barbie Girl,” [[youtube.com/watch?v=ZyhrYis509A](https://youtube.com/watch?v=ZyhrYis509A)]  
WATCH: Safiya Nygaard, “I Dressed Like Bratz Dolls from the  
2000s,” [[youtube.com/watch?v=lf-KVEXIoqM](https://youtube.com/watch?v=lf-KVEXIoqM)]

**Week 11: Wednesday, 5 April 2023**  
**On Sweets\*** BEFORE CLASS:  
EXPLORE: Andy Warhol, *Life Savers* 353,  
[[revolverwarholgallery.com/portfolio/life-savers-353/](https://revolverwarholgallery.com/portfolio/life-savers-353/)]  
WATCH: Katy Perry ft. Snoop Dogg, “California Gurls,”  
[[youtube.com/watch?v=F57P9C4SAW4](https://youtube.com/watch?v=F57P9C4SAW4)]

**Week 12: Wednesday, 12 April 2023**  
**NO CLASS** **NO CLASS MEETING**

**Week 13: Wednesday, 19 April 2023**  
**On Films about** BEFORE CLASS:  
**Camp, Part I\*** WATCH: *But I’m a Cheerleader* (Jamie Babbit, 1999)

**Week 14: Wednesday, 28 April 2023**  
**On Films about** BEFORE CLASS:  
**Camp, Part II\*** WATCH: *Camp* (Todd Graff, 2003)

**Week 15: Wednesday, 3 May 2023**  
**Work on Paper 03 NO CLASS MEETING**

**FINALS WEEK Final Project due Friday, 12 May 2023 by 11:59PM**

*The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.*