

HUMANITIES 006: POPULAR CULTURE

DAY 1

INTRODUCTIONS

1. Name
2. What are your goals while attending De Anza College?
3. What Humanities classes have you taken at De Anza, or other colleges, if any?
4. What might you be interested in discussing, exploring, or learning about in a “pop culture” class?

THE COURSE (IN GENERAL)

What are the “Humanities”?

- Princeton Website:
 - *Studies intended to provide general knowledge and intellectual skills (rather than occupational or professional skills).*
 - What does this sound like to you?

“RATHER THAN OCCUPATIONAL OR PROFESSIONAL SKILLS”

Sounds like this to some...



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THE COURSE (IN GENERAL)

Is that all true?



THE COURSE (IN GENERAL)

What are the humanities?



They are studies of human attempts to understand our relationship to ourselves, to others, to our past, to the future, to nature, and to God.

THE COURSE (IN GENERAL)

What are the humanities?

Report on the Commission on the Humanities:

Through the humanities we reflect on the fundamental question: what does it mean to be human?

The humanities offer clues but never a complete answer.

They reveal how people have tried to make moral, spiritual, and intellectual sense of a world in which irrationality, despair, loneliness, and death are as conspicuous as birth, friendship, hope and reason.

THE COURSE (IN GENERAL)

What are the humanities?

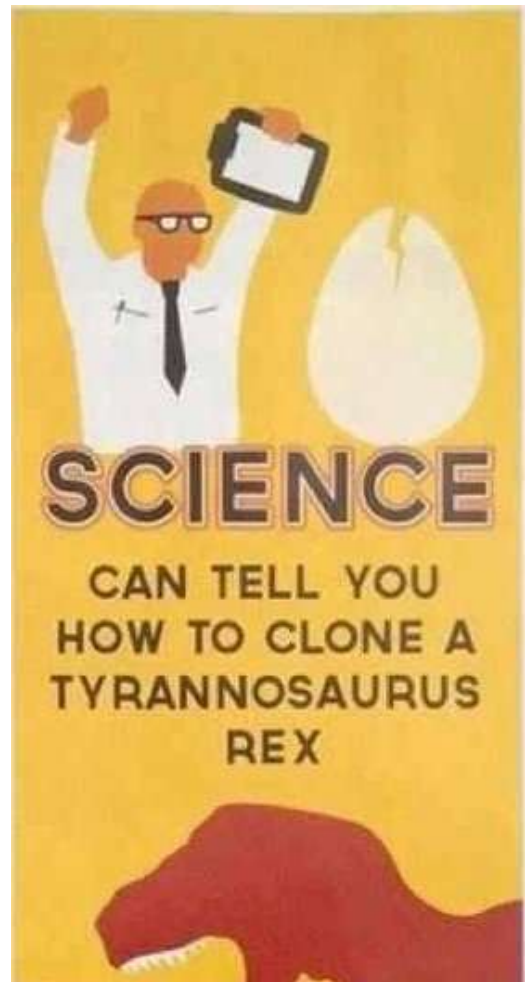
Albert Einstein:

Knowledge and skills alone cannot lead humanity to a happy and dignified life.

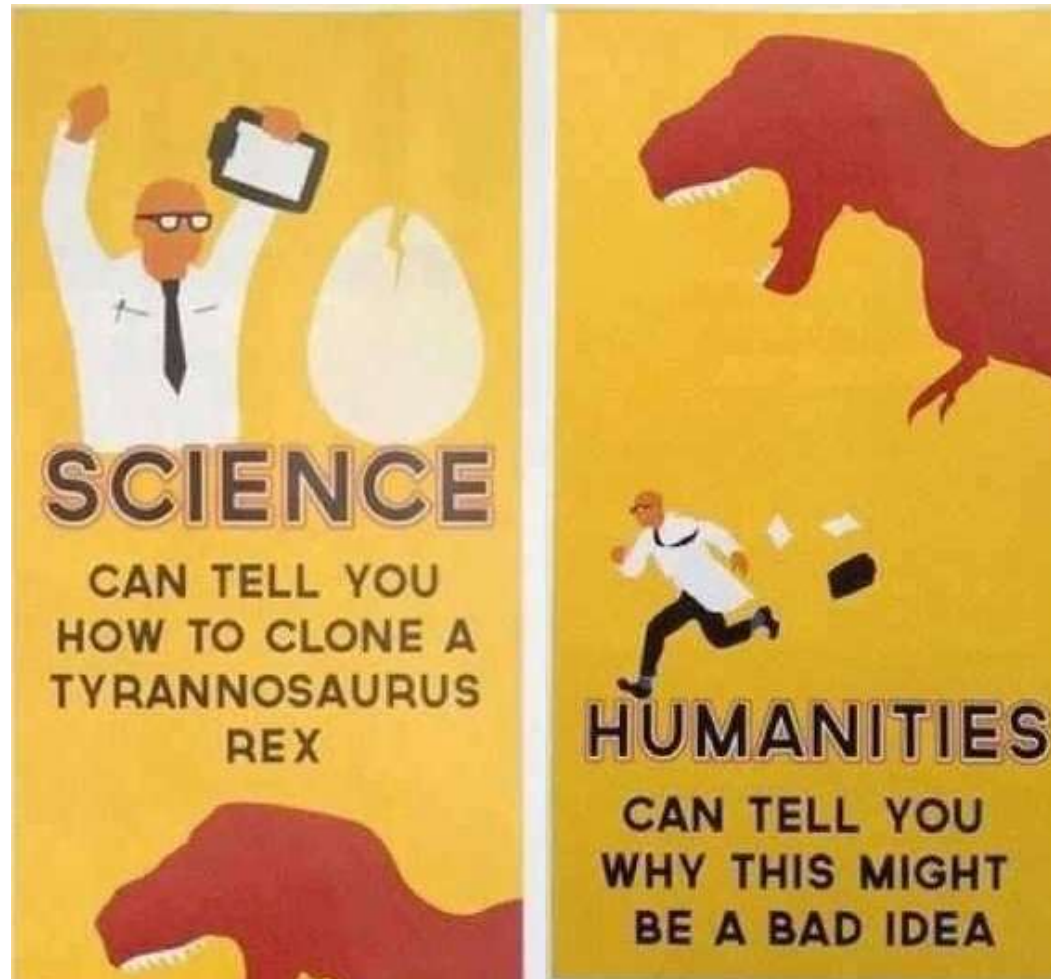
Humanity has every reason to place the proclaimers of high moral standards and values above the discoverers of objective truth.

What humanity owes to personalities like Buddha, Moses, and Jesus ranks for me higher than all the achievements of the inquiring and constructive mind.

THE COURSE (IN GENERAL)



THE COURSE (IN GENERAL)



THE COURSE (IN GENERAL)



SYLLABUS REVIEW

HUMANITIES 006: POPULAR CULTURE

HOUR 2

REVIEW:
WHAT ARE THE “HUMANITIES”?



- Studies of general knowledge and skills.
- Studies of our relationship w/ ourselves, life, the world.
- Studies of meaning and purpose.
- Studies of standards and values.

REVIEW:
SO WHAT ARE WE STUDYING?

Popular Culture



WHAT DO PEOPLE MEAN BY “POP CULTURE”?- PART 1



Common Usage:

- *Refers to aesthetic products created and sold by profit-seeking firms operating in the global entertainment market.*

Does that cover it? Is that all?

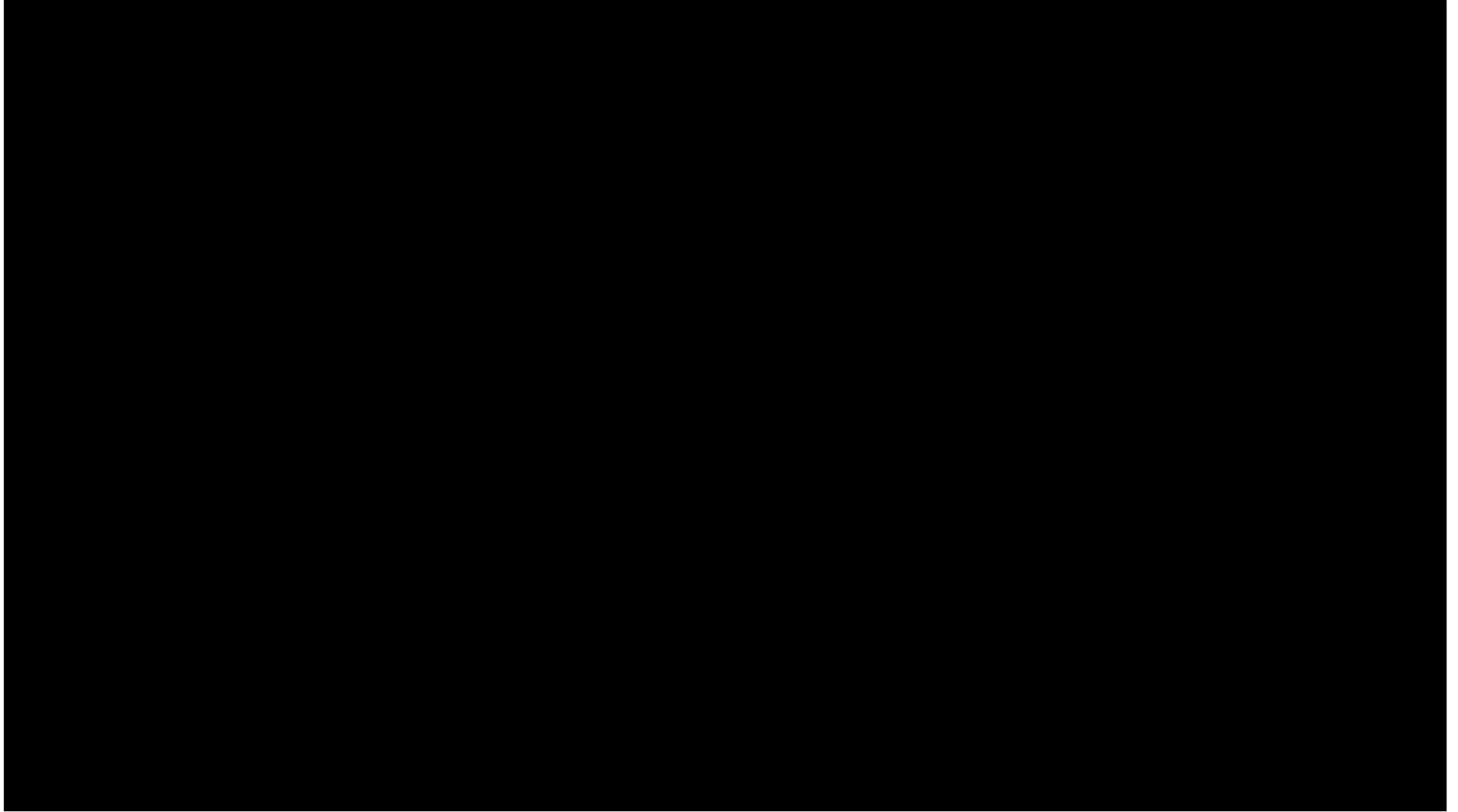
POP CULTURE REFERENCES

To get a better sense for what it is, let's see if you can identify pop culture references.

Groups of 3 to 4

Identify as many pop cultural references as you can in each of the video clips.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES - #1

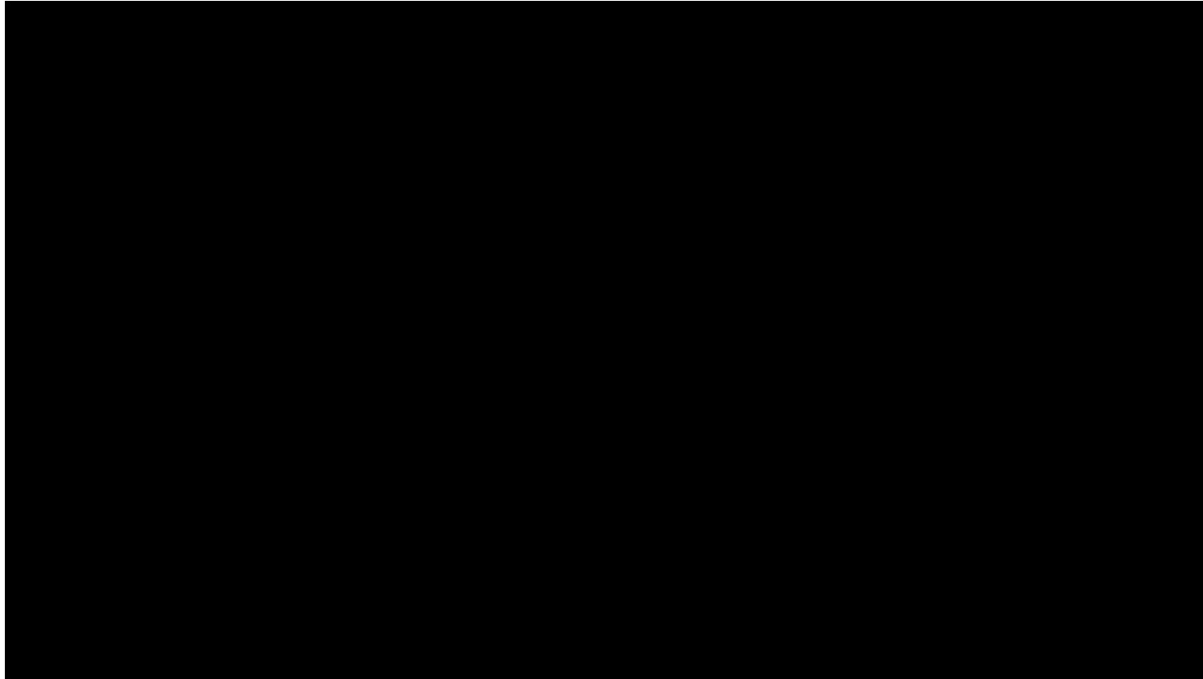


POP CULTURE REFERENCES - #2



POP CULTURE REFERENCES - #3

POP CULTURE REFERENCES - #1



- The Super Bowl is mentioned.
- The film "Star Wars"

POP CULTURE REFERENCES - #2

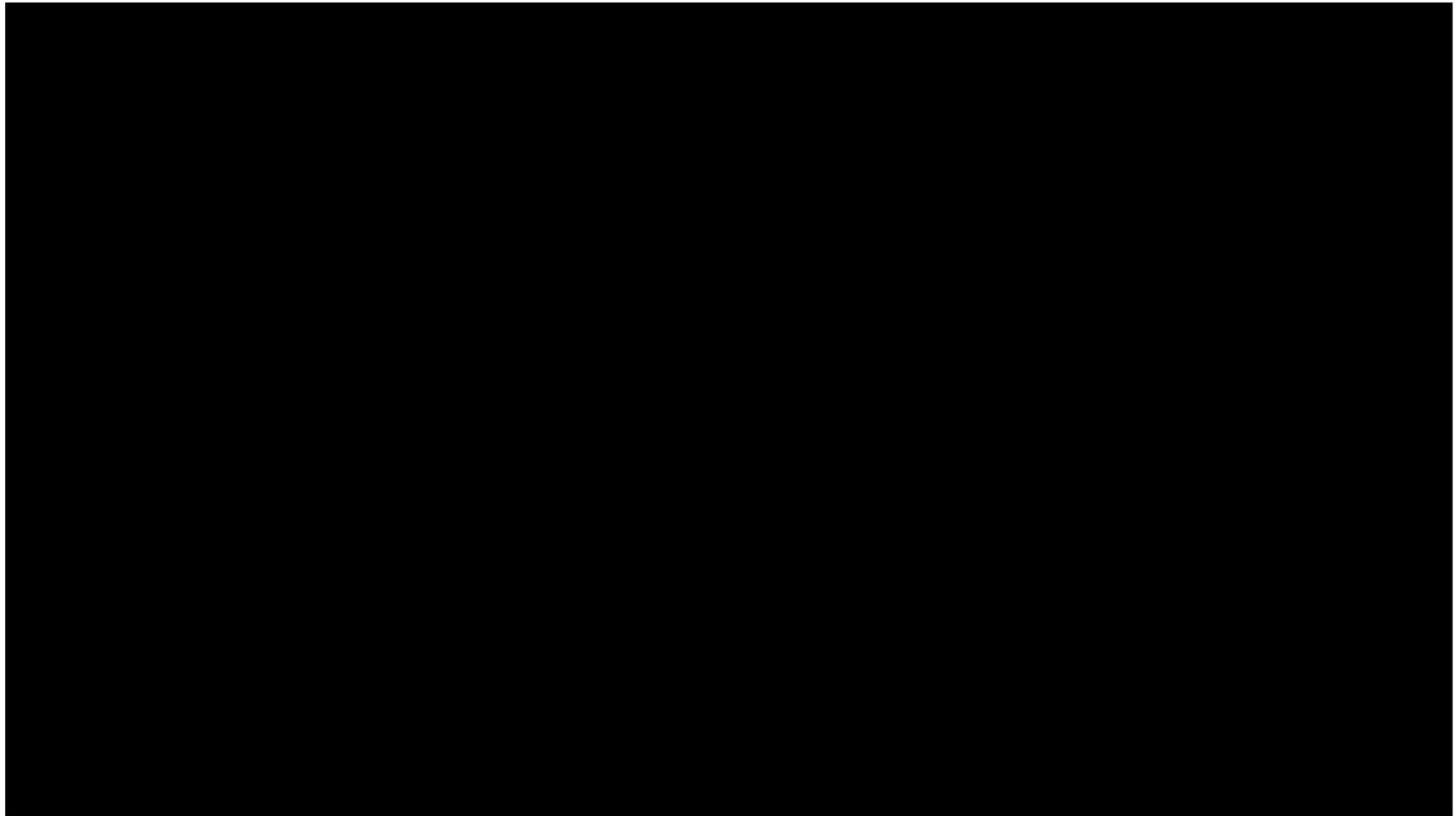


- Actor Nicholas Cage
- Singer Celine Dion
- Fictional character “Charles Widmore” from the television show Lost.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES - #3

- Ann Curry
- To Kill a Mockingbird – “Bust up your chiffarobe.”
- The television show “Good Times”
- Comedian Red Fox

POP CULTURE REFERENCES
“DRUNK UNCLE”



WHAT DO PEOPLE MEAN BY “POP CULTURE”?- PART 2

Many Uses of “Popular”

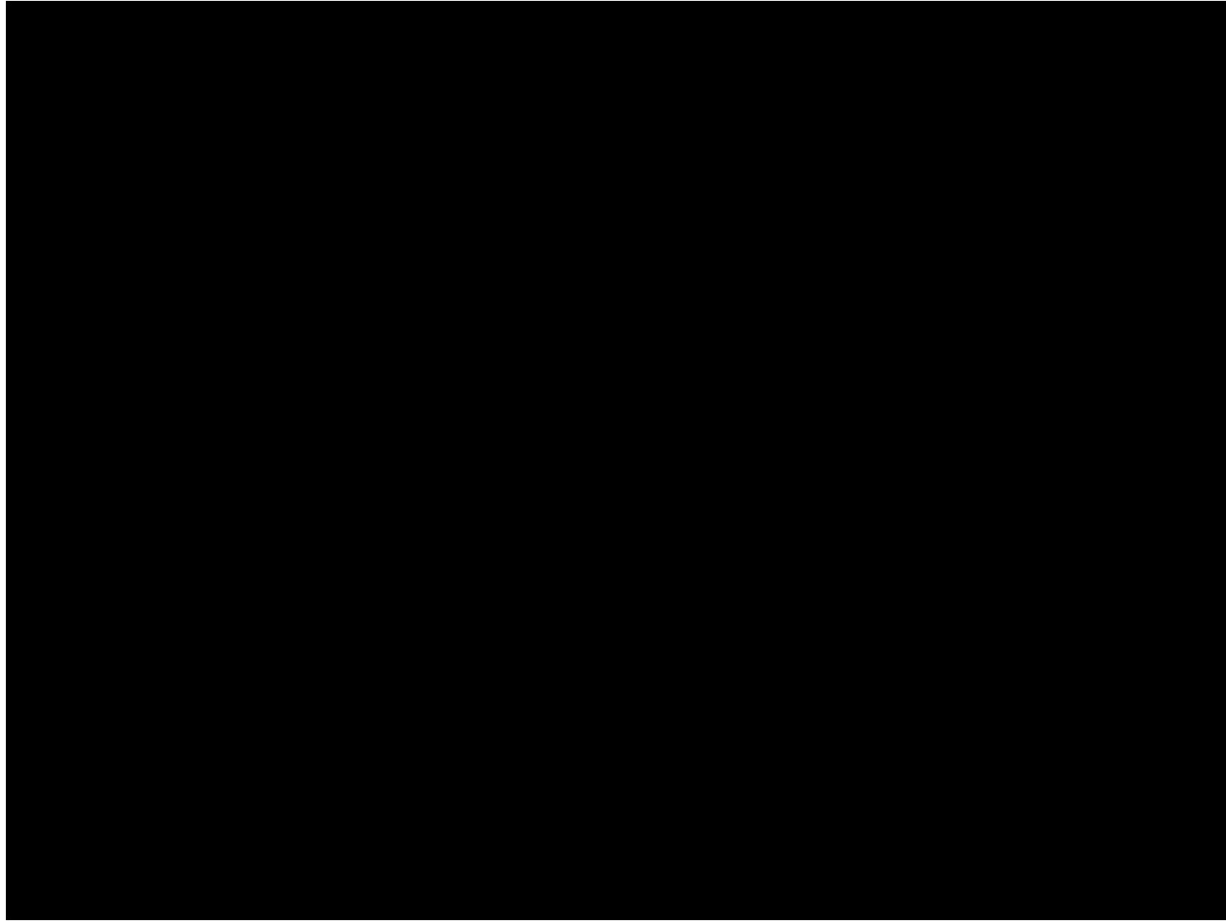
1. Something that is well liked.
2. Something that is well known.
3. Commercial media thought to be trivial, tacky, pitched to the lowest common denominator as intended for general consumption.
4. Expression (song, dance, art, other communication) *belonging to the people*.
5. Media events mass audiences experience simultaneously.

WAIT. SO WHAT ARE WE STUDYING?

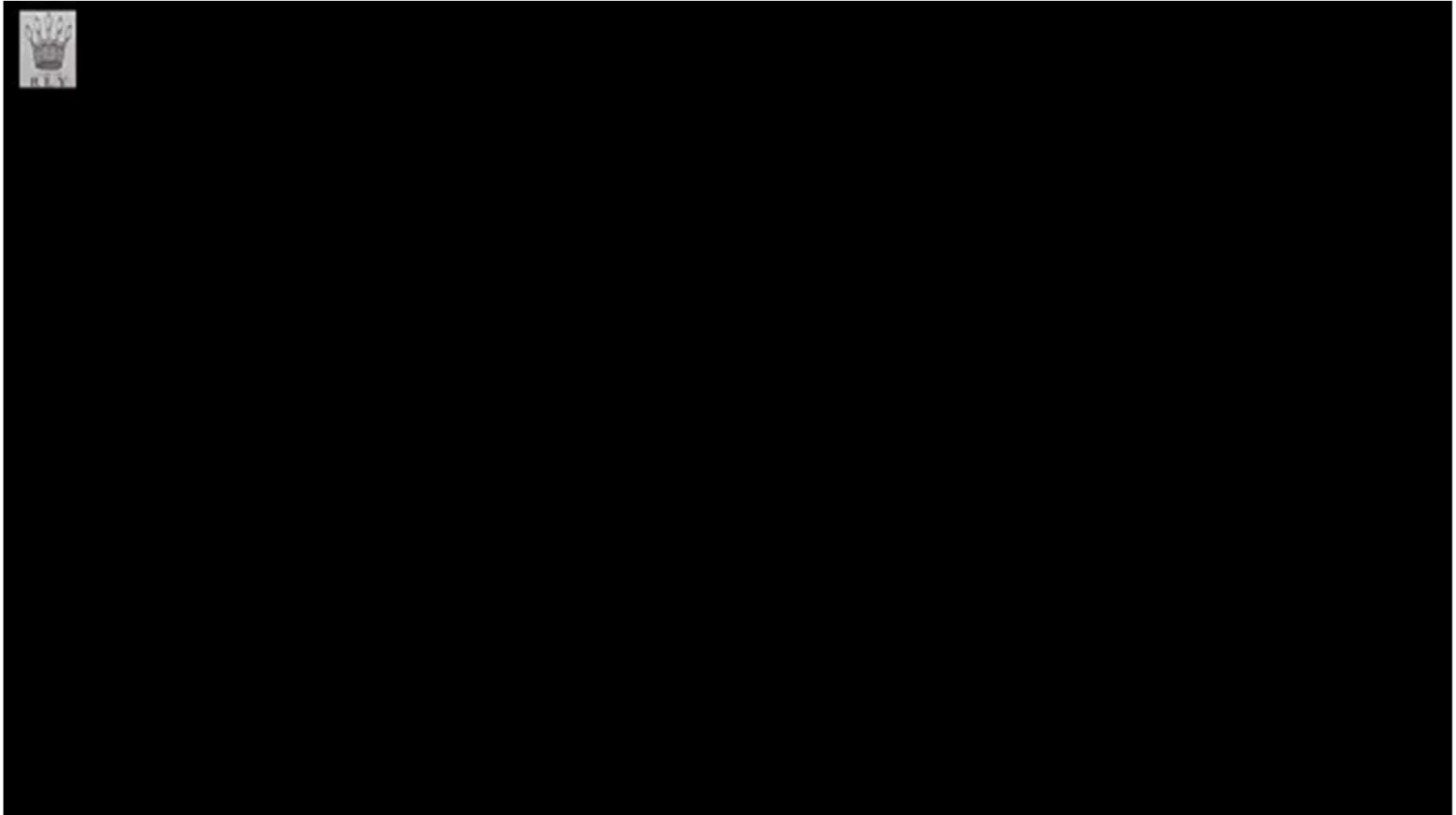
Popular Culture



RIHANNA: "S.O.S" ('06)



SOFT CELL: "TAINTED LOVE" ('81)



GLORIA JONES: "TAINTED LOVE" ('64)



MARILYN MANSON: "TAINTED LOVE" ('03)

Maybe Rihanna was Inspired by this...



WAIT. SO WHAT ARE WE STUDYING?

Pop Culture Influenced by Past

*To understand pop culture,
need to understand where it came from.*

1st Half: 50s – 80s. **2nd Half:** Modern Day



WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH
THE HUMANITIES?



BUT WHY CARE?