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Department of English Studies  
Semester 4 Group 3  
Introduction to Cultural Studies  
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### Cultural Studies Concepts/Terms /Theories

#### 1-« Power Knowledge Theory »

Michel Foucault

-Knowledge is a form of power.

-Those who own /possess power spread their knowledge.

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- « KNOWLEDGE LINKED TO POWER...ENTAILS CONSTRAINTS, REGULATIONS...AND DISCIPLINE...THUS, THERE IS NO POWER RELATION...WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE... »

- POWER OPERATES IN SOCIAL RELATIONS

- POWER IS OMNIPRESENT AT EVERY LEVEL OF SOCIETY

- Power manifests in institutions, language, public space, gender relations and roles, race and class.

-According to Foucault, citizens are « docile bodies » under state control or surveillance.

-Quotation :

*Knowledge linked to power, not only assumes the authority of 'the truth' but has the power to make itself true. All knowledge, once applied in the real world, has effects, and in that sense at least, 'becomes true.' Knowledge, once used to regulate the conduct of others, entails constraint, regulation and the disciplining of practice. Thus, 'there is no power relation without the correlative constitution of a field of knowledge, nor any knowledge that does not presuppose and constitute at the same time, power relations.' Michel Foucault*

#### 2-« Cultural Texts »

- A TEXT IS MADE UP OF WORDS AND SENTENCES THAT ARE GRAMMATICALLY CONNECTED TO PRODUCE MEANINGS/MESSAGES
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- TEXTS ARE HOLDERS OF MEANINGS, MESSAGES AND IDEOLOGIES.
- WORDS: SIGNIFIERS
- CONTENT/MEANING: SIGNIFIED



- In Cultural Studies cultural texts could be literary texts and media products, images, such as advertisements, movies and cyberspace or the Internet.

*« Cultural texts refer to sign systems, storytelling tools and symbols that contribute and shape a society's culture. They have underlying cultural meanings. They either require certain cultural knowledge to be understood, they are produced through a certain cultural context or, as most texts do, become representative of a culture and its values »*

Cultural texts have different layers /levels of understanding. They are not static or unchanging. They can reveal multiple meanings or interpretations to different readers. Cultural texts are multi-dimentional, they are dynamic.