Women’s Studies 421: Constructions of Gender in the Media—Fall 2009

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108B Ingraham Hall
Office hours: T&R 11:00-12:00 and by appointment

This course provides an introduction to feminist media scholarship and to the key issues that frame the study of gender and the media. We will examine the roles of mass media and gender in forming our “identities” as individuals and as groups. We will consider the ways the formation of gender is inseparable from race, class, religion, sexuality, ethnicity, age, religion and nation.

Readings are due on the day listed. They are all on electronic reserve (see below).

9/3: Introduction: Interrogating “Gender”

9/8: Gender: beyond the binary
View: selections from Transgeneration

9/10: Gender: beyond the binary
View: selections from Transgeneration

9/15: Gender: multiple genders
Read: “Dueling Dualisms” from Sexing the Body, Anne Fausto-Sterling

9/17: Gender: multiple genders
View: selections from Middlesexes

9/22: Gender and its history

9/24: Gender: multiplicity and justice

9/29: Gender: multiplicity and justice
View: TBA

10/1: Gender, Intersectionality
Read: TBA

10/6: Gender, Ideology, Hegemony (Marx, Althusser, Gramsci)
10/8: Gender, Ideology and Discourse (Althusser and Foucault)

10/13: Gender, Intersectionality, Ideology, Discourse
Read: ”Gender is Burning: Questions of Appropriation and Subversion,” Judith Butler;
“Is Paris burning?” bell hooks
View: Paris is Burning

10/15: Gender, Intersectionality, Ideology, Discourse
View: Paris is Burning

10/20: Gender and Cinema: Narrative and Techniques

10/22: Gender and Cinema: Narrative and Techniques
Read: TBA
View: excerpts from Bound

10/27: Gender: Ideology: The cinematic apparatus and the gaze
Read: “Ways of Seeing,” John Berger

10/29: Gender: Ideology: The cinematic apparatus and the gaze
Read: “Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema,” Laura Mulvey
View: excerpts from Vertigo

11/3: Discourse and the Oppositional Gaze
Read: “The Oppositional Gaze,” bell hooks
View: excerpts from Daughters of the Dust

11/5: Discourse and the Oppositional Gaze
View: U People

11/10: Gender, Race, Masculinity
Read: “Stylish Hard Bodies,” Susan M. Alexander

11/12: Gender, Race, Masculinity
View: excerpts from The Searchers

11/17: Gender, Race, Masculinity and TV
Read: “Television, Representation and Gender,” Julie D’Acci

11/19: Gender, Race, Masculinity and TV”
Read: “‘Give Me a Big Ol’ Queen Any Day’: Alternative Femininities, Black Masculinity, and Noah’s Arc,” Courtney Bates.

11/24: Gender and Television: global examples
Read: Sheldon H. Lu, “Soap opera in China: the transnational politics of
visuality, sexuality, and masculinity.” “Television tales and a woman's rage; a nationalist recasting of Draupadi's 'Disrobing', Purnima Mankekar. “Sex appeal and cultural liberty: a feminist inquiry into MTV India,” Jocelyn Cullity and Prakash Younger

**View:** excerpts from *The Mahabharat*

12/1: Gender and Music Videos/Hip Hop

**Read:** “Who(se) am I?,” Imani Perry

**View:** *Hip Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes*

12/3: Gender and current US Television

**Read:** TBA

**View:** TBA

12/8: Gender, Media and Third Wave Feminism


**View:** TBA

12/10: Gender and “children’s” media

**Read:** “Who’s Your Heroine? Negotiating Asian American Superpower in Disney’s *Mulan*,” Mimi Nguyen

**View:** *Mickey Mouse Monopoly*

12/15: Conclusions

**Course requirements:**

% (2 absences are allowed for an A—if you are sick or have an emergency, please speak with me).

**Participation:** 15% (including turn as discussion leader)

**Journal:** 15%* (notes will be collected after every class period for which readings are due)

**Papers** (2 four-page): 40% (20% each), details will be provided

**Final Exam:** 20%, details will be provided

**Electronic Reserves** available on-line—log onto “My UW” ([http://my.wisc.edu](http://my.wisc.edu)) and click on Academics tab. Go to “Library Reserves by Department. Click on WS 421. Articles will be listed by author’s names.

*For Reading notes:
1. Recapitulate main argument or thesis
2. List 5 key discussion points
3. Give your own specific reaction