

Women and the Media
Media 384, Spring 2016
Room HN 506
Hunter
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This course explores the broad topic of women and media along the following three axes: representation, labor, and critique. That is, we will examine the ways different women are represented in different forms of media. We will consider the work (labor) women do, both as creators and audience members, within various media. And, throughout the entire semester, we will consider women's (or, more accurately, feminist) critiques of the media. Of course, we will spend the semester thinking about what and who is meant by the term 'woman.' Race, class, ability, appearance, age and sexual identity often determine who is a woman and who is not. Part of our work will be analyzing the various cultural narratives surrounding different groups of women and, even more pressing will be to trace the cultural work such narratives accomplish. We will also learn about the media women make and consider how this alters the ways gender is represented. Not only will we consider print, television, and cinema, we will also spend a considerable amount of time thinking about women and digital media.

Readings:

Our main text is *Gender, Race, and Class in Media: A Critical Reader*, eds Gail Dines and Jean M Humez

Selections from: *Gender and Media* by Rosalind Gill (I have pdfs of the first two chapters).

Selected Chapters from: *Resilience and Melancholy* by Robin James. 2015.

Course Workload:

Attendance and Participation (25%): Attendance is imperative! I will measure attendance by sign-in sheet or by calling roll most class periods. If you are present, you get a point. For some class periods I will give short in-class writing assignments that you turn in. These will not be graded: as long as you complete the exercise, you will receive the point. Attendance/participation writings can never be made up. Finally, you will self-assess your participation in the middle and again at the end of the semester. At the end of the semester you will receive an attendance/participation grade, which will be a combination of your self-determined grade with the calculation of all the points you earned (divided by the total number of points possible). Coming to class is an easy way to secure a quarter of your grade!

Reading Presentation or "show and tell" (25%): At least once, and maybe twice, you will have to bring in an example of an outside media "thing" (an image, a campaign, a speech, video, article, hashtag trend, song...anything. The sky is the limit here) that illustrates the argument or a key point from our scheduled reading. You do not have to summarize the scheduled reading. You do have to show and tell us how your media object exemplifies some aspect of the reading. Let me know if you have problems with a reading BEFORE your scheduled date! Do not show up and say you don't get it. If you feel especially lost, then contact me, and work on explaining one idea that makes sense. We will sign up for these on the first day of class.

Quizzes over scheduled readings (25%): We'll have a brief quizzes over the readings (and they'll be about 4-5 questions/points each). These will never ever be able to be made up! Some weeks the quiz will be given in the form of a homework assignment, meaning I will say: bring in an example of "xyz" next week and share with the class. If you miss an in-class quiz, you miss the quiz. This is FIRM. Pace your self accordingly and keep up on the readings!

If you miss 0-1 classes (which is perfect attendance) you may add 5 points to your quiz total (which would cover a missed quiz). If you miss 2-3 classes and you participate regularly and thoughtfully, you may add 3 points to your quiz total.

Theory Exam (25%): At the end of the semester, you will have to successfully be able to define, describe, and provide an example from the main theories from our readings and discussions. This will be a take home exam, I'll hand it out the second to last class, May 9th, and you'll bring it back on May 16th.

GRADING SCALE: I do not give incompletes under any circumstance.

100=A+	79-77 = C+
99-93=A	76-72 = C
92-90=A	71-70 = C-
89-87=B+	69-60 = D
86-83=B	Below 60 = F
82-80=B-	

RULES: No cell phones/computers/screens—we can do it! No cheating, no plagiarism (see <http://hunger.cuny.edu/studentaffairs/student-conduct/academic-integrity>). Respect each other and different opinions.

SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE. OR, THIS WILL CHANGE):

Feb 1:	first day of class; introductions
Feb 8:	<i>Theories and Methods for Studying the Media</i> Rosalind Gill chapter 2, “Analyzing Gender in Media Texts” GRCM #1 “Cultural Studies, Multiculturalism, and Media Culture” GRCM #11 “The Whites of Their Eyes: Racist Ideologies and the Media”
Feb 15:	NO CLASS
Feb 22:	Laura Mulvey, “Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema” (1975) bell hooks, “The Oppositional Gaze: Black Female Spectators” (1992)
Feb 29:	GRCM #7 “Women Read the Romance: The Interaction of Text and Content”
Mar 7:	GRCM #6 “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition An American Fairy Tale” GRCM #36 “That Teenage Feeling: Twilight, Fantasy, and Feminist Readers”
Mar 14:	<i>Post Feminist Narratives</i> Angela McRobbie, “Postfeminism and Popular Culture” (found here: http://uk.sagepub.com/sites/default/files/upm-binaries/23586_02_McRobbie_Ch_01.pdf)
Mar 21:	Selections from Robin James
Mar 28:	Portwood-Stacer GRCM #32 “Nothing Less Than Perfect: Female Celebrity, Ageing, and Hyper-Scrutiny in the Gossip Industry”
Apr 4:	GRCM #15 “Transgender Transitions: Sex/Gender Binaries in the Digital Age” GRCM # 43 “Queering Queer Eye: The Stability of Gay Identity Confronts of the Liminality of Trans Embodiment”
Apr 11:	<i>Working in Media</i> GRCM #29 “Sex, Lies, and Advertising” “Hollywood’s Pathetic Treatment of Women is Ready for Its Close-Up” (in <i>Mother Jones</i> , January 30, 2016)
Apr 18:	Tiziana Terranova, “Free Labor” “Hope Labor”
Apr 25:	SPRING BREAK
May 2:	“Hope Labor”
May 9:	TBA
May 16:	Wrap up!