WMST 498T/698X: Media and Feminist Studies • Fall 2010

Weds 3:00-5:30pm

Instructor:	Prof. Tara Rodgers
Course Listing:	WMST 498T/698X: Advanced Special Topics in Women's Studies: Media and Feminist Studies (3 credits)
Prerequisites:	This course has no prerequisites, but is intended for upper-level undergraduates and graduate students. First-year undergrads are not allowed to take the course; if you are sophomore, please speak with me during the first week to review course expectations.

Course Description

This course provides an overview of key debates and critical frameworks in media and feminist studies. Our interdisciplinary inquiry will be informed by such fields as feminist and critical race theories, gender and sexuality studies, media and cultural studies, and popular music studies. We will consider the critiques and possibilities this work generates concerning the politics of media representation and access; mass-mediated formations of identity, difference, and community; media production and activism. Readings and objects of study will span TV, film, and visual cultures; music and sound cultures; digital media and cyberspace. For roughly the first half of the semester we will study histories and theories of media and feminism, and their intersections. Over the second half of the semester we will apply this knowledge by examining specific domains of popular media, including advertising, sport, music, and news coverage of war and violence. Our overall aim is to develop critical feminist approaches for engaging historical and contemporary forms and uses of media.

Course Objectives

- to establish working definitions of *media* and *feminism*
- to consider how the histories of media and feminist movements intersect, and how these histories inform present discourse
- to assess various feminist approaches for engaging media, including analyses of gender, race, and sexuality in representation; creative expressions in media production; and critiques of media access and infrastructure
- to learn how to apply feminist critical frameworks to encounters with media in our daily lives

Grading

10% participation
10% quizzes on readings
20% take-home midterm exam (due at beginning of class, Oct 20)
20% feminist media artifact essay (5-6 pp., due at beginning of class, Nov 10)
10% <u>undergraduates</u>: in-class presentation (Dec 1)

graduates: discussion facilitation (date TBD, Oct 13-Nov 10)
30% undergraduates: final exam (date TBA)
graduates: final paper (15-20 pp., due Fri Dec 10)

Semester Schedule and Course Readings

This syllabus is subject to change as we move through the course; students will be notified in advance should there be any changes to readings, assignments, exams or grading. All readings are to be done before the class session under which they are listed.

Introducing Media and Feminist Studies

Week 1 - Sept 1: Greetings; Course Overview

What are *media*? How do we begin to think about media as having and making histories and politics, or as being "new" or "old"? What are some provisional definitions of *feminism*, and why study media from feminist perspectives?

Reccomended background readings:

Garvey, Ellen Gruber. 2003. Scissoring and scrapbooks: nineteenth-century reading, remarking, and recirculating. In *New Media, 1740-1915*, edited by L. Gitelman and G. B. Pingree, 207-28. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Sterne, Jonathan. 2007. Out with the trash: on the future of new media. In *Residual media*, edited by C. R. Acland, 16-31. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Week 2 - Sept 8: Some Feminist Theoretical Groundings: Situated Knowledges, Partial Perspectives; Intersectionality

Haraway, Donna J. 1988. "The persistence of vision." Excerpted from Situated knowledges: the science question in feminism and the privilege of partial perspective. *Feminist Studies* 14 (3): 581-90.
URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/3178066

hooks, bell. 1992. Introduction to *Black Looks: Race and Representation*, 1-7. Boston: South End Press.

Thornton Dill, Bonnie, and Ruth Enid Zambrana. 2009. Critical thinking about inequality: an emerging lens. Excerpted from chap. 1 in *Emerging Intersections: Race, Class, and Gender in Theory, Policy, and Practice*, 1-13. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Ganguly, Keya. 1992. Accounting for others: feminism and representation. In *Women Making Meaning: New Feminist Directions in Communication*, 60-82. New York: Routledge.

Watch and discuss in class:
I Was a Teenage Feminist. 2005. Written and directed by Therese Shechter, Trixie Films.

Feminist Media Histories and Postfeminist Media Cultures

Week 3 - Sept 15: Mass-mediated Memories

Douglas, Susan J. 1995. *Where the Girls Are: Growing Up Female with the Mass Media*. New York: Three Rivers Press. (Please read entire book; OK to skip/skim chs. 5-6.)

Week 4 - Sept 22: Thinking Gender and the Media

Gill, Rosalind. 2007. Gender and the media. Chap. 1 in *Gender and the Media*, 7-41. Malden, MA: Polity.

Rhode, Deborah. 1995. Media images, feminist issues. *Signs* 20(3): 685-710. URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/3174839

Week 5 - Sept 29: "Waves" of Feminism; Critiques of Postfeminism

Spigel, Lynn. 2004. Theorizing the Bachelorette: 'waves' of feminist media studies. *Signs* 30(1): 1209-21. URL: http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/422232

Garrison, Ednie Kaeh. 2005. Are we on a wavelength yet? On feminist oceanography, radios, and third wave feminism. In *Different Wavelengths: Studies of the Contemporary Women's Movement*, edited by J. Reger, 237-56. New York: Routledge.

Gill, Rosalind. 2007. Postfeminist media culture? Chap. 8 in *Gender and the Media*, 249-71. Malden, MA: Polity.

Recommended:
McRobbie, Angela. 2004. Post-feminism and popular culture. *Feminist Media Studies* 4(3): 255-64. URL: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/1468077042000309937

Mediating Gender, Race, Class, Sexuality, and Culture

Week 6 - Oct 6: Visual Cultures and Racial Politics of Representation

hooks, bell. 2006 (1992). Eating the other: desire and resistance. In *Media and Cultural Studies: KeyWorks*, edited by M. G. Durham and D. M. Kellner, 366-80. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Hill Collins, Patricia. 2005. Get your freak on: sex, babies, and images of black femininity. Chap. 4 in *Black Sexual Politics*, 119-48. New York: Routledge.

Week 7 - Oct 13: Media Circulations, Cyberspace, and Transnationality

Grewel, Inderpal. 2005. Traveling Barbie: Indian transnationalities and the global consumer. Chap. 2 in *Transnational America: Feminisms, Diasporas, Neoliberalisms*, 80-120. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Nakamura, Lisa. 2002. Cybertyping and the work of race in the age of digital reproduction, and "Where do you want to go today?" Cybernetic tourism, the internet, and transnationality. Chaps. 1 and 4 in *Cybertypes: Race, Ethnicity, and Identity on the Internet*, 1-30, 87-99. New York: Routledge.

Week 8 - Oct 20: Sporting Bodies
****TAKE-HOME MIDTERM EXAM DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS****

In-class readings and discussions to be selected from the following:

Cahn, Susan K. 1993. From the "muscle moll" to the "butch" ballplayer: mannishness, lesbianism, and homophobia in U.S. women's sport. *Feminist Studies* 19(2): 343-68. URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/3178373

Messner, Michael A. 1990. When bodies are weapons: masculinity and violence in sport. *International Review for the Sociology of Sport* 25(3): 203-18. URL: http://irs.sagepub.coagepub.com/content/25/3/203

Hill Collins, Patricia. 2005. Booty call: sex, violence, and images of black masculinity. Excerpted from Chap. 5 in *Black Sexual Politics*, 149-66. New York: Routledge.

Media Productions of Identity and Community

Week 9 - Oct 27: Music and Sound

Diamond, Beverley. 2005. Media as social action: Native American musicians in the recording studio. In *Wired for Sound: Engineering and Technologies in Sonic Cultures*, edited by P. D. Greene and T. Porcello, 118-37. Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press.

Sandstrom, Boden. 2000. Women mix engineers and the power of sound. *Music and Gender*, edited by P. Moisala and B. Diamond, 289-305. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.

Farrugia, Rebekah. 2009. Building a women-centered DJ collective. *Feminist Media Studies* 9 (3): 335-51. URL: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14680770903068308

Week 10 - Nov 3: Queer(ing) Media

Driver, Susan. 2007. "Your music changed my life, I needed something queer": musical passion, politics, and communities. Chap. in *Queer Girls and Popular Culture: Reading, Resisting and Creating Media*, 195-232. New York: Peter Lang.

Gray, Mary L. 2009. Introduction (excerpt) and chap. 4: From Wal-mart to websites: out in public. In *Out in the Country: Youth, Media, and Queer Visibility in Rural America*, 1-21, 87-118. New York: NYU Press.

In class: screenings of feminist and queer music and video art

Media Infrastructures, Coverage, and Witnessing

Week 11 - Nov 10: Media "Coverage" and the Politics of Location
****FEMINIST MEDIA ARTIFACT ESSAY DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS****

Kaplan, Caren. 2006. Precision targets: GPS and the militarization of U.S. consumer identity. *American Quarterly* 58(3): 693-714.
URL: http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/american_quarterly/v058/58.3kaplan.html

Parks, Lisa. 2005. Introduction and Satellite witnessing: views and coverage of the war in Bosnia. In *Cultures in Orbit: Satellites and the Televisual*, 1-19, 77-107. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Week 12 - Nov 17: TBA ** special guest

Week 13 - Nov 24: Feminist Responses to War and U.S. Imperialism

Stabile, Carole, and Deepa Kumar. 2005. Unveiling imperialism: media, gender and the war on Afghanistan. *Media, Culture & Society* 27(5): 765-82.
URL: http://mcs.sagepub.com/content/27/5/765.full.pdf+html

Khan, Shahnaz. 2008. Afghan women: the limits of colonial rescue. In *Feminism and War: Confronting U.S. Imperialism*, edited by R. L. Riley, C. T. Mohanty, and M. B. Pratt, 161-78. London: Zed Books.

Davis, Angela Y. 2005. Sexual coercion, prisons, and feminist responses. In *Abolition democracy: beyond empire, prisons, and torture; interviews with Angela Y. Davis*, 49-76. New York: Seven Stories Press.

Recommended:
Mohanty, Chandra Talpade, Minnie Bruce Pratt, and Robin L. Riley, eds. 2008. Introduction: feminism and U.S. wars - mapping the ground. In *Feminism and War*, 1-18.

Week 14 - Dec 1: **Feminist Media Artifact Presentations**

Week 15 - Dec 8: Additional Presentations (if necessary)
Final Class / Review Session