Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies 317
Hollywood, Women and Film
Tu 9:30-12:18, Th 10:30-12:18
Jennings Hall 0160

Instructor: Denise Fuller
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Office: University Hall 037, Office hours: Tues/Thurs 12:30-1:30 pm or by appointment

Accommodation of students with Disabilities:
Students who have verification from Disability Services are responsible for contacting the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements. The Office for Disability Services (150 Pomerene Hall; 614-292-3307) verifies the need for accommodations and assists in the development of accommodation strategies.

Course Description:
This course is a critical survey of the representation of women in Hollywood cinema with examples drawn from different historical periods. It is designed to introduce students to the complexities and ambiguities of the film medium by showing how film has, historically and aesthetically, represented women and particularly how the intersections of race, gender, sexuality, and class are negotiated in Hollywood films.

Texts:
No textbooks are required for this course. I will post all reading assignments on Carmen under the content tab. If you have any problems accessing these texts, please email me. PowerPoint slides will also be made available on Carmen.

Goals:
As a course that fulfills the "Arts and Humanities: Analysis of Texts and Works or Art" GEC requirement, the goals of Women's Studies 317 are to help students:

• Develop an aesthetic appreciation of Hollywood film in various historical and cultural contexts
• Learn to analyze, interpret, and evaluate film by improving critical visual, listening, reading, and writing skills through the use of feminist film theory
• Understand the complexities and ambiguities of film and reflect upon its meanings

Learning Objectives:
• Develop the ability to be more enlightened observers of cinematic texts
• Understand how gender, race, class, sexuality, and ethnicity intersect and influence visual representation
• Be able to explain and analyze the aesthetic, historical, cultural, and social relevance of these texts
• Enhance the ability to think, read, and write critically and analytically through written assignments, class discussions, and lectures

Attendance:
Given the format of the class, it is essential for your classroom success that you are here. The screenings, scene analysis, and class discussions will be incorporated into your exams. I allow two (2) absences in case of sickness, emergencies, and other unforeseen circumstances. If there are extenuating circumstances, please contact me as soon as possible so that we may discuss your options.

You do not need to email me if you miss a class unless you are handing in a medical note or other documentation, but you should contact your classmates to get the notes from the class. If you miss a film, please check the library for the film before contacting me.

Cell Phone/Computers/Recording Devices/Food:
Cell phones are to be turned off before class begins. Using a cell phone to text during class will cause a drop in your participation grade -- please respect me and your fellow classmates by using your phone before class, after class, or during the break. If there is an emergency situation which necessitates a phone being kept on vibrate, please speak to me before class begins. Furthermore, computers are not to be used in class unless it is before class or during the break.

You cannot record class sessions without my knowledge. I allow food and drink in the classroom.

Grades:
In-Class Quizzes: 14%, 8 in-class quizzes, each worth 4 pts., 28 pts possible
Each Thursday, with exceptions that are noted in the syllabus, there will be an in-class quiz in the beginning of class that asks questions about the readings for the week. The answers to the quizzes need not be written in complete sentences and are easy to answer if you've read the articles. You are given five minutes to complete the quiz. There are no makeups for in-class quizzes due lateness or absences, but I will drop the lowest quiz grade of the 8 quizzes.

Discussion Questions: 20%, 8 discussion questions, each worth 10 pts, 40 pts possible
Every Thursday, with exceptions that are noted in the syllabus, there will be a discussion question posted on Carmen. The discussion question expands on in-class discussions, class concepts, and/or asks students to reflect on their own experiences in watching films. Of the (8) eight discussion questions posted, students must answer (4) four of them throughout the quarter. They are due on the following Monday at 6 pm. The answers should be at least 300 words in length to receive full points, and they should be checked for spelling and grammar. I do not accept late answers to the discussion questions.

Midterm Exam: 26%, 52 pts possible
The midterm will be an in-class exam consisting of multiple choice and essay questions.

Final Exam: 28%, 56 pts possible
The final exam will be an in-class exam consisting of multiple choice and essay questions.
**Attendance/Participation: 12%, 22 pts possible**

I take attendance daily, and you will be expected to contribute to class discussion. You are allowed two absences without it impacting your grade. After two absences, your attendance/participation grade will drop by three (3) points each subsequent absence. If you are caught texting during class, you will be docked one (1) point for each instance. If you do not participate in class discussion at least once every two weeks, your grade will drop by two (2) points every two weeks. Lively discussion allows us to further interrogate the texts. If you have difficulties speaking in class, please email or come to my office hours in the beginning of the quarter so we can discuss ways that I can help you participate. We want to hear your voice and opinions!

* Midterms and final exams cannot be made up unless there is a documented medical or family emergency.

**Grading Scale:**

A 100-94%, A- 93-90%, B+ 89-87%, B 86-83%, B- 82-80%, C+ 79-77%, C 76-73%, C- 72-70%, D+ 69-67%, D 66-63%, D- 62-60%

**Plagiarism:**

As defined by University Rule 3335-31-02, plagiarism is "the representation of another's works or ideas as one's own; it includes the unacknowledged word for word use and/or paraphrasing of another person's work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person's ideas." Plagiarism is one of the most serious offenses that can be committed in an academic community; as such, it is the obligation of this department and its instructors to report all cases of suspected plagiarism to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. After the report is filed, a hearing takes place and if the student is found guilty, the possible punishment ranges from failing the class to suspension or expulsion from the university. Although the existence of the Internet makes it relatively easy to plagiarize, it also makes it even easier for instructors to find evidence of plagiarism. It is obvious to most teachers when a student turns in work that is not his or her own and plagiarism search engines make documenting the offense very simple.

Cite your sources, ask questions before you turn in an assignment if you are uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism, and see me if you are having difficulty with an assignment. Do not plagiarize!
Course Schedule

Part I: Women's Genres

Week 1:
Tuesday, January 3: Introduction, Lecture, and Screening, *The Cheat* (1915)
Cover course syllabus and handout vocabulary.

Thursday, January 5: Finish Screening and Discussion, *The Cheat*
Read: Berger, "Ways of Seeing" and Marchetti, "The Rape Fantasy"
Discussion question posted -- due on Monday, January 9 at 6pm!

Week 2:
Tuesday, January 10: Lecture and Screening, *Imitation of Life* (1959)

Thursday, January 12: Discussion, *Imitation of Life*
Read: Dyer, "Four Films of Lana Turner" and Heung, "What's the Matter with Sarah Jane?"
In-class quiz on readings from week 1 & 2! Discussion Question posted -- due on Monday, January 16 at 6 pm!

Week 3:
Tuesday, January 17: Lecture and Screening, *It Happened One Night* (1934)

Thursday, January 19: Discussion, *It Happened One Night*
Read: McDonald, "Romantic Comedy and Genre" and Lent, "Romantic Love and Friendship"
In-class quiz! Discussion Question posted -- due on Monday, January 23 at 6 pm!

Week 4:

Thursday, January 26: Discussion, *Knocked Up*
Read: Alilunas "Male Masculinity as the Celebration of Failure: The Frat Pack, Women, and the Trauma of Victimization in the 'Dude Flick" and Lewis, "A Laugh at Whose Expense?"
In-class quiz! Discussion Question posted -- due on Monday, January 30 at 6 pm!

Week 5:
Tuesday, January 31: Lecture and Screening, *Fried Green Tomatoes* (1991)
Thursday, February 2: Midterm Exam
Part II: Men's Genres

Week 6:
Tuesday, February 7: Lecture and Screening, *Thelma & Louise* (1991)

*Thursday, February 9: Discussion, Fried Green Tomatoes and Thelma & Louise*
Read: Man, "Gender, Genre & Myth," Sturtevant, "Getting Hysterical" and Hollinger, "Theorizing Mainstream Female Spectatorship: The Case of the Popular Lesbian Film"
In-class quiz! Discussion Question posted -- due on Monday, February 13 at 6 pm!

Week 7:
Tuesday, February 14: Lecture and Screening, *Halloween* (1978)

*Thursday, February 16: Discussion, Halloween*
Read: Clover, "Her Body, Himself: Gender in the Slasher Film"
In-class quiz! Discussion Question posted -- due on Monday, February 20 at 6 pm!

Week 8:

*Thursday, February 23: Discussion, The Silence of the Lambs*
Read: Taubin, "Grabbing the Knife" and Dubois, "Seeing the Female Body Differently"
In-class quiz! Discussion Question posted -- due on Monday, February 27 at 6 pm!

Week 9:
Tuesday, February 28: Lecture and Screening, *Fatal Attraction* (1987)

*Thursday, March 1: Discussion, Fatal Attraction*
Read: Davis, "The Allure of the Predatory Woman in Fatal Attraction and Other Current American Movies" and Babener, "Patriarchal Politics in Fatal Attraction"
In-class quiz! Discussion Question posted -- due on Monday, March 5 at 6 pm!

Week 10:
Tuesday, March 6: Lecture and Screening, *Girlfight* (2000)
Thursday, March 8: Discussion, *Girlfight*
Read: Baker, "A New Combination: Women and the Boxing Film" and Fojas, "Sports of Spectatorship: Boxing Women of Color in *Girlfight* and Beyond"
** In-class quiz!

Final Exam: Monday, March 12th from 9:30 am to 11:18 am.