

The Cinema: Pop Culture, Power and Ideology

CP349, Fall 2015

Section: 202 - T/TH 3:00-5:50pm - Room: QUIG 0306

Section 203 - M/W 7:00pm-10:00pm - Room: COMM 1020

Instructor: Stacy Calvert

Email: stacyjill@siu.edu

Office Location: Communications Building, Room 12 (MFA Studios)

Office Hours: 1pm-2:00pm Tuesday & Thursday (or by appointment)

Course Overview:

This is an eight-week seminar that will examine the changing cultural and theoretical views of class, gender, race and sexuality in contemporary media. Each week, students will view, discuss, and write about the films and television shows and other media formats, which are screened during the class. Students may also have additional readings or screenings to review before a weekly discussion group.

Course Objectives

In this class students will:

- Gain an intersectional understanding of how Class, Gender, Race & Sexuality are represented in contemporary pop culture
- Provide a weekly analysis of texts and media, including blogs, essays, film and television shows.
- Lead discussions about media shown in class, and complete assignments/exams based on topics.

Class Conduct

During the screenings and lectures, there will be no use of cell phones or talking allowed. Laptops may be used to take notes during lectures, but you should bring a notebook to take notes during screenings. If you are unable to follow these rules, I will ask you to leave class and you will be marked with an unexcused absence.

It is important to note that the material covered in this course may bring up many emotions and ideas. **Everyone in the class has the responsibility of making our classroom a safe environment** where everyone feels comfortable expressing their thoughts and in which everyone can feel that their opinions are respected, even when they are not shared by all members of the class.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. If you need to miss class for an emergency reason, please email me before class. **TWO** or more unexcused absences will result in receiving a zero for the attendance portion of your grade.

Participation

Each week, students will be responsible to listen and participate in lectures and discussions during class regarding the screenings. Students will also receive assignments related to the topics discussed in class.

Weekly Responses:

Students are responsible for writing blog posts each week and reflect on the readings and media screenings in class. These responses are due each week by Sunday evening at 7pm.

Our class blog is: <http://cp349-202.tumblr.com/>

The password is: siucpop

Discussion Groups:

Each week, students will be responsible for leading discussion on assigned readings and screenings in class. Students who are leading discussion will provide four questions to help engage their classmates in conversation about each section.

Grades Breakdown:

Attendance: 10 points

Class Participation (includes Participation, Weekly Responses & Discussion

Groups: 40 points

Midterm: 25 points

Final Exam: 25 points

Total = 100 Points

* There will be opportunities for extra credit throughout the semester.

Week One - Hegemony & Media

Tuesday, August 25:

Screening:

- *Black Mirror: Episode 2: Fifteen Million Merits* (Lyn, 2011)

Read:

- Lull, James. "Hegemony" *Media, Communication, Culture: A Global Response*
- Kompak, Derek "The Twilight Zone: Landmark Television" *How to Watch Television*
- Green, Adam "Normalizing Torture on 24" *New York Times*

Thursday, August 27

Screening:

- *Snowpiercer* (Bong, 2013)

Week Two - Challenging Stereotypes

Tuesday, September, 1

Screening:

- *24* (Last Week Tonight with John Oliver clip)
- *Tyrant*

Read

- Alsultany, Evelyn. *How to Watch Television*. "Challenging Stereotypes"
- Green, Adam "Normalizing Torture on 24" *The New York Times*

Homework:

- Exercise #2 - Find the Stereotype (Due Sep. 3)

Thursday, September 3

Screening:

- *Black-Ish*
- *Fresh Off the Boat*
- *Jane the Virgin*
- *Scandal*

Read:

- Bensoff, Harry M.; Griffin, Sean. "The Concept of Whiteness and American Film" *America on Film: Representing Race, Class, Gender and Sexuality*
- Acham, Christine. "The Cosby Show: Representing Race" *How to Watch Television*

Week Three – Women and Hollywood

Tuesday, September 8

Screening:

Clips from: *The Bachelorette*, *Flavor of Love*

UnReal, Episode 1 & 2

Read:

Pozner, Jennifer. "Unraveling Reality Tv's Twisted Fairytales" *Bitch Magazine*

Dubrofsky, Rachel E. "Performing Race in 'Flavor of Love' and 'The Bachelor'" *Critical Studies in Mass Communication*.

Pozner, Jennifer. "Erasing Ethnicity, Encoding Bigotry" *Reality Bites Back*

Thursday, September 10

Screening:

- *Charmed*
- Rose McGowan on Sexism in Hollywood: https://broadly.vice.com/en_us/video/rose-mcgowan-on-sexism-in-hollywood
- Dawn (McGowan, 2015) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQ41Y2Gp4io>

Read:

Moe, Angela M. "Unveiling the Gaze" *Feminist Theory and Pop Culture*

Listen and read Ulaby, Neda "The 'Bechdel Test'" *All Things Considered*

Homework:

Study for Mid-Term Exam

Week Four - Historically Speaking

Tuesday, September 15

Mid-Term Exam

Screening:

- *Selma* (DuVernay, 2014)

Thursday, September 17

Screening:

- *Pride* (Warchus, 2014)

Read:

- Thrasher, Steven W. "Pop Culture's Black Lives Matter Moment Couldn't Come at a Better Time" *The Guardian*
- Wilson, W.L. "From Selma to Hollywood, With Love." *Ebony*
- Kellawaym Kate. *The Guardian* "When Miners and Gay Activists united: the real story"

of the film *Pride*”

Week Five – Bots & Battleships

Tuesday, September 22

Screening:

- *Sense 8* (Episode 1)
- *Battlestar Galactica* (Episode 1)
- *Star Trek: The Next Generation*

Read:

- Geraghty, Lincoln. “American Science Fiction Post 9-11” *American Science Fiction Film and Television*
- Pearson, Roberta. “Star Trek: Serialized Ideology” *How to Watch Television*
- Pank, Dylan and Caro, John “Haven’t you heard? They look like us now: Realism and Metaphor in the New *Battlestar Galactica*” *Channeling the Future: Essays on Science Fiction and Fantasy Television*

Thursday, September 24

Screening:

- *Ex-Machina* (Garland, 2015)

Read:

- Parker, Laura “Human After All: *Ex Machina*’s Novel Take on Artificial Intelligence” *The Atlantic*
- Watercutter, Angela “*Ex Machina* Has a Serious Fembot Problem” *Wired*

Week Six - Queer Lives

Tuesday, September 29

Screening:

- *The L Word - Season 1: Episode 9 - Listen Up*
- *Transparent, Episode 1 and 2*
- *Orange is the New Black*
- *RuPaul’s Drag Race*
- *Modern Family*
- *Glee*

Read:

- Walters, Suzanna Danuta. “Dossier on Ellen” *All the Rage: The Story of Gay Visibility in America*
- Bono, Chaz with Fitzpatrick, Billie (Chapters 12 & 13) - *Transition*
- Rogers, Katie. *The Guardian* “With Looking, RuPaul and Modern Family, is LGBT Life Now Mainstream?”

Thursday, October 1

Screening:

- *Pariah*

Read: Joiner, Lottle L. “Visible Lives” *Crisis*

Week Seven - Teen Dreams & Nightmares

Tuesday, October 6

Screening:

- Buffy the Vampire Slayer
- East Los High
- Skins
- Scream: The TV Series

Read:

- McGee, Sara, "High School is Hell: The TV Legacy of Beverly Hills, 90210 and Buffy the Vampire Slayer" *The Journal of Popular Culture*

Thursday, October 8

- *G.B.F*

Read:

- Tv Tropes: GBF <http://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/Film/GBF>

Week Eight - Final Exam

Tuesday, October 13 - No Classes, Fall Break

Thursday, October 15

Final Exam