

Comm 822: Feminist Media Studies

Dr. Amanda Lotz

Fall 2011

Meeting time: T 11:00-2:00 NQ 2265

Information about the Instructor

Amanda Lotz, Ph.D. (Amanda is fine)

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Office Hours: T: 2:00-3:00; Th 10:00-11:00, and by appointment.

Office Location: North Quad #5445

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Course Description

This course provides graduate students with an introduction to key debates and ideas and various critical and cultural approaches to feminist studies of gender and media, including textual, institutional, and audience methodologies. Our primary objective will be to establish a foundational basis necessary for considering the relationship between sex, gender, feminism, and media in the United States. The course will begin with a survey of reading drawn from communication, cultural studies, and television and film theory in order to establish the discrepant approaches to the study of gender and feminism in these various media traditions. This course is intended to provide students with an initial set of tools with which they might apply to particular media and topics of interest; it also attends closely to matters of methodology.

Reading Material

Required Books; also articles available on Electronic Reserves

van Zoonen, Liesbet, *Feminist Media Studies*. London: Sage, 1994. ISBN # 0 8039 8554 1

Kearney, Mary Celeste (ed.) *The Gender and Media Reader*. New York: Routledge, 2011. ISBN # 0415993466

Reeser, Todd W. *Masculinties in Theory: An Introduction*. Malden, MA: Wiley Blackwell, 2010 ISBN: 9781405168601

Requirements:

Class attendance and participation

20%

Class discussion facilitations

15%

Textual analysis paper (800-1000 words)

20%

Paper presentation

10%

Final paper (15-18 pages)

35%

Percent of Final Grade:

Class Discussion Facilitations: Each student is required to facilitate discussion during the semester as determined by the instructor. Such presentations should include a concise summary and critique of, as well as stimulating questions about, topics and theories addressed in the reading. Students are encouraged to prepare and share additional materials (e.g., handouts, TV clips) that might be helpful in clarifying that reading and that week's discussion topic. Assignments of readings will be made once enrollments stabilize.

Textual Analysis Paper: The purpose of this paper is for you to engage in analysis of the method of textual analysis by examining a set of 10 articles using textual analysis on a topic related to your interests. The paper should be a 4-5 page (800-1000 words) assessment of how the textual analysis was done, how the evidence was presented, what claims/types of claims were made. The paper should not be a listing, but should be structured around an argument about textual feminist analysis and the articles should be in conversation with each other.

Final Paper and Presentations: The final paper requires a feminist critical/cultural analysis of a media industrial practice, history, reception, and/or a specific text or genre, and should be of conference length (20 minute presentation—although time allotment may change depending on course size and available time). Topics will be chosen by students, but must be approved by the professor in advance, ideally by mid-semester. Students are encouraged to select topics relevant to broader intellectual pursuits and pursue work that might be revised for submission to conferences or augmented subsequently for publication. Graduate-level research, writing, and critical analysis are expected. This paper must be completed in order to successfully pass the course. The presentation will be rigorously graded and should be of a quality appropriate for a professional conference. Students should account for the norms of various conference cultures and discuss particular expectations with the professor in advance.

Class Participation: Students are expected to complete the assigned readings prior to the beginning of class. Each student should also pose at least one question for discussion to the Ctools site by 8 am Tuesday each week. Feel free to also pose a few comments, and do read your classmates contributions before coming to class. As much of the course material is theoretically sophisticated, you should allow enough time for close reading and analysis. You are encouraged to outline the texts and develop questions for class discussion. This class is conducted as a seminar; therefore, students are required to engage fully and participate actively and regularly by expressing their opinions and raising provocative questions about the course material. In turn, students are expected to be respectful of and open to others' opinions and questions, thus facilitating rather than closing down critical debate.

Course Schedule

Tuesday September 6 Course Introduction

Read in advance: Gill; Discuss various traditions, where this class fits, what it will and will not do.

Tuesday September 13 Key Perspectives and Overviews

Kearney Intro-Ch 8 (van Zoonen, Tuchman, Mulvey, Shohat, Crenshaw, Butler, Gill)

*Replace D'Acci from reader with book intro (and read the notes) on CTools)

Brunsdon, "A Thief in the Night" (CTools 276-87)

Recommended:

D'Acci—from reader

Steeves, H. Leslie. "Feminist Theories and Media Studies." 95-135

Rakow and Wackwitz, "Feminist Communication Theory: An Introduction," 1-10

Brunsdon, D'Acci, Spigel, "Introduction: Feminist Television Criticism," 1-16

Brown, "Introduction: Feminist Cultural Television Criticism," 11-22.

Tuesday September 20 Feminist Media Studies In Depth

van Zoonen, *Feminist Media Studies*

Recommended:

Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity* (New York: Routledge, 1989).

Michael Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, vol. 1: The Will to Knowledge* (New York: Vintage, 1990).

Tuesday September 27 Masculinity

Reeser, *Masculinities in Theory* (emphasis on Intro, Ch. 1 and assigned chapter)

Hanke, Robert. "Theorizing Masculinity with/in the Media," *Communication Theory* 8.2 (1998): 183-203.

Connell, R. W. and James W. Messerschmidt, "Hegemonic Masculinity: Rethinking the Concept,"

Gender and Society 19, no. 6 (2005): 829-59

Recommended:

Amanda D. Lotz, "Introduction" *Reigning Men*

Tuesday October 4 Queer Theory and Sexuality (guest Candace Moore)

Becker, Ron. "Introduction" *Gay TV in Straight America*

White, Patricia. "Introduction" *Uninvited: Classical Hollywood Cinema and Lesbian Representability* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1999).

McCarthy, Anna. "Ellen: Making Queer Television History": *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 7.4 (2001) 593-620

Recommended:

Full books by Becker and White

Please attend Jimmy's Draper's Colloquium Talk on October 6, 4:10 NQ 5450

Tuesday October 11 Round table discussion: Select a Monograph of your choice

Discuss Jimmy's presentation, 1st yr project presentations, final paper topics, textual analysis papers

Please attend Emily Chivers Yochim's Colloquium Talk on October 13, 4:10 NQ 5450

Tuesday October 18 No Class Fall Break

Tuesday October 25 Cases: Texts

Kearney Part 3: Mooney, Rowe and Lindsey; Guzman and Valdivia; Sellen; Ciasullo; Sgroi; Cooper Messner, Dunbar, and Hunt; Fung; Cohan; Ashcraft and Flores; van Doorn, Wyatt, and van Zoonen

Tuesday November 1 Cases: Texts

Kearney Part 4: de Lauretis; Schiavi; Gledhill; Williams; Banet-Weiser and Porterwood-Stacey; Tasker; Douglas; Nochimson; Jenkins; Walser; Railton

***Friday November 4, noon Textual Analysis Paper Due**

Tuesday November 8 Cases: Production/Institutions

Kearney Part 2: Bielby and Bielby; Citron; Meehan; Brokey and Westerfelhaus; Levine; Shade; Schilt; Kelley; Bayton

Tuesday November 15 Regroup/Discuss Textual Analysis Papers/Final Paper-Pres Topics

One on one meetings in Amanda's office 11-1; group meeting 1-2:00

Tuesday November 22 Cases: Audiences

Kearney Part 5: Kuhn; hooks; Doty; Gray; Straw; Stacey; Farmer; Cumberland; Royse et al; MacCallum-Stewart

Tuesday November 29 Interrogate the Author

Lotz, A, *Redesigning Women: Television after the Network Era* (Illinois, 2006)

Tuesday December 6 Small reading groups: TBD

Tuesday December 13 Presentations

***Friday, December 16, noon Final Papers Due**