

Gender and Popular Culture

WMST 4250/6250, Sections 91-703 and 71-702

Meetings:	Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:30-1:45 pm IWS Room 109, Benson Building	Office:	Room 102, Benson Building Email: asdurham@uga.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesday 2-4 pm or by Wednesday appointment	Phone:	542.2846 542.0084 (direct line)

Course Description

Students will become acquainted with concepts and theories of social identity and culture, seminal feminist cultural criticism, and interpretative approaches to better understand diverse practices and perspectives in contemporary popular culture.

This course will provide an overall examination of popular culture, highlighting multiperspectival analyses of gendered representations as they intersect key moments on the Circuit of Culture. Throughout the course, students will draw from relevant current events, feminist cultural studies scholarship, and personal experience to discuss social identity, production and consumption, regulation, and representation in popular culture.

This course is multidisciplinary in its approach to “reading” signifying practices and symbolic systems in popular culture, which includes transnational media as well as folk culture and everyday life. Students will explore popular culture as product and process. Media (both electronic and print) will be woven throughout the course. In-class videos should be regarded as integral to the course because they elucidate concepts addressed in required course material and they enhance group discussion.

At the close of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand theories and concepts of gender and popular culture
- Apply theoretical frameworks and interpretive approaches to analyze cultural texts
- Contextualize cultural products and processes through the Circuit of Culture
- Write a cogent, concise scholarly a research paper about a cultural text

Required Text

Sardar, Z., & Van Loon, B. (2005). *Introducing cultural studies* (3rd ed.). Lanham, Md.: Totem Books; Distributed to the trade in the U.S. by National Book Network.

Required readings can be accessed online through WebCT and e-Reserves. Students are responsible for the retrieval and reproduction of all reading materials obtained from e-Reserves and WebCT available electronically. Supplemental course material will be distributed in class or posted on WebCT.

The password for e-Reserve access is: _____

Special Needs

Students requiring special needs, services or aids at any point during the course, should feel free to contact the professor for assistance. For a comprehensive list of students resources, please visit: <http://www.uga.edu/student/resources.html>

Special Needs (Continued)

Visit the **Disability Resource Center** at <http://drc.uga.edu>. Or, contact the office by phone at 542.8719 (voice) or 542.8778 (TTY).

Visit the **Academic Enhancement Center** at <http://www.uga.edu/dae>. Or, contact the office by phone at 542-7575.

Visit the **Writing Center** at <http://www.english.uga.edu/writingcenter/home.html>. Or, contact the office by phone at 542.2119

Assessments

ID'ing Music.....	5 pts.
Research Topic/Question	5 pts.
Microanalysis of Assigned Text	5 pts.
Microanalysis of Text for Research Project	10 pts.
Research Paper Draft	10 pts.
In-class projects.....	25 pts.
Class Discussion/Responses.....	10 pts.
Research Paper	20 pts.
Group Presentation.....	10 pts.
 Total Points	 100 pts.

Possible Extra Credit* 5 pts.

*Students will have only one opportunity to submit extra credit on a mass media event. Students will discuss the media event at each moment on the Circuit of Culture. Extra credit must be in the format of a 2-minute oral report or a 2-sided 4x6 index card. Students presenting oral reports must notify the professor at least one class period in advance. **All extra credit will be presented or submitted on February 7, March 6 or April 10.**

Grading Criteria

Grade A	90-100 pts.
Grade B	80-89 pts.
Grade C.....	70-79 pts.
Grade D.....	60-69 pts.
Grade F.....	50-59 pts.

Class Communication

Information about relevant campus events or class updates will be announced in class, posted on WebCT, and/or sent electronically to your campus email address. **All student email correspondence sent to the professor at asdurham@uga.edu must include course number in the subject line** to receive a response within 24 hours. Consider emails sent on the weekend and emails sent after 4:30 p.m. on weekdays to be received by the professor on the following academic business day.

Date: Tue 8 Jan 13:46:07 EDT 2008
 From: youremailaddress@uga.edu
 Subject: WMST 4250/6250
 To: asdurham@uga.edu

Class Organization

Class lectures and collaborative learning in groups enrich our understanding of gender and popular culture. The class will be divided into six groups. Collaborative learning exercises will provide opportunities for students to share analyses in a smaller group setting. The group will be responsible for a final presentation. Each group member is responsible for reading all material to participate in class discussion and in-class projects, which comprise 35 points of the total points awarded.

Attendance

Attendance may be taken at random as part of class discussion. Your presence is your responsibility as a member in your group and the classroom at large. Excessive absences can result in your withdrawal from the class at the discretion of the professor. Members within the group may be asked to provide insight during class. Your unexcused absence and/or non-participation could cost you and/or your group valuable discussion points.

If students are not able to attend class due to illness or a family emergency, please provide written notification from a third party source. For example, in the case of an illness, students may provide a doctor's note identifying the time and date of the actual visit (rather than the appointment). Only an official letter from a third party will be accepted for consideration of an excused absence. Excused absences are approved at the discretion of the professor.

Classroom Etiquette and Student Conduct

The classroom is a space of collaborative intellectual production. Students enrolling in this course assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects an academic community. Word processors are permitted for note-taking purposes only. Audio devices should be muted to avoid class disturbance. Students should not engage in any conduct that threatens the health and safety of others. Physical abuse, intimidation, sexual misconduct, harassment or hazing will not be tolerated, and will be subject to university disciplinary action.

For an elaboration of Student Codes of Conduct and Student Rights and Responsibilities, please visit: <http://www.uga.edu/studentaffairs/students/policies.shtml>

Academic Integrity and Culture of Honesty

To ensure we maintain a vibrant intellectual community cheating, fabricating, plagiarizing or bribing will not be tolerated. These are major infractions of academic integrity. Failure to read university policies regarding the culture of honesty will not make you exempt from possible university disciplinary action. All academic work must meet the standards contained in *A Culture of Honesty*. Each student is responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work (see, *Academic Affairs Handbook*, Section 2.02). Should you need an elaboration of policies and procedures regarding the culture of honesty, please visit:

http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture_honesty.htm

Assignments:

Unless noted, all assignments must be typed, doubled-spaced, and numbered with 1-inch margins. All assignments should include the student name, course section number, assignment title, and the actual date of submission. After the first warning, 1 point will be deducted from total assignment grade.

Assignments (Continued):

	Durham, Aisha WMST 4250, Section 91-703 Name of Assignment January 17, 2008
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ID'ing Music **January 10**
 Submit a **typed one-paragraph** description of how a song best represents your identity. Include aspects of your identity that are left out of the song as well.

Microanalysis of Assigned Text **February 7**
 Submit a "reading" of the assigned text of no more than two pages. Identify the text, locate it within a specific area of popular culture, and identify strategies for decoding.

Research Topic/Question **February 12**
 Submit prospective research topic along with a research statement or question.

Sample Research Topic:	Representation of Queen Latifah in <i>Chicago</i>
Sample Research Question:	How does Latifah represent the jezebel in the nightclub scene in the film <i>Chicago</i> ?
Sample Research Statement:	Latifah represents the jezebel and mammy in relation in the nightclub scene in the film <i>Chicago</i> .

Microanalysis of Text for Research Paper **February 26**
 Submit a "reading" of text that you will use for your research project. Build upon earlier techniques, identifying the strategies for decoding, and discuss the print ad through the Circuit of Culture.

Research Paper (Draft) **March 25**
 See handout on research paper guidelines.

Research Paper **April 24**
 See handout on research paper guidelines.

Class Discussion/Responses **Random**

Group Presentations **April 15-22**
 See handout on group presentation guidelines.

Attribution for all assignments will be formatted in APA style. For more information about APA citation style, please visit: <http://www.libs.uga.edu/ref/apastyle.html>. For questions or concerns about attribution, please feel free to contact the professor.

Late Assignments

Assignments are considered late if they are not submitted at the time of request. Excused absences do not guarantee assignment extensions.

Course Schedule

Course Schedule			
Week 1 1.08	Circuit of Culture	T	Overview: Review syllabus, discuss course objectives, and provide overview of required readings Lecture: Defining Culture <p style="text-align: right;">Required Reading: Sardar & Van Loon, pp. 3-9, 138-145</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Additional Required Reading (Graduate): Barker, C. (2003). The Parameters of Cultural Studies, WebCT</p>
1.10		R	Lecture: Circuit of Culture Assign groups <p style="text-align: right;">Assignment Due: ID'ing Music</p>
Week 2 1.15 1.17	Circuit of Culture	T	In-class project: Social Identity <p style="text-align: right;">Required Reading: Sardar & Van Loon, pp. 122-129</p>
1.17		R	Lecture: Circuit of Culture (Continued) <p style="text-align: right;">Additional Required Reading (Graduate): Shaich, M. (1998). Feminism and Popular Culture, WebCT</p>
Week 3 1.22 1.24	Reading Popular Feminisms	T	Lecture: The Politics of Identity, Feminisms & Cultural Studies <p style="text-align: right;">Required Reading: Spigel, L. (2004). Waves of Feminist Media Studies</p>
1.24		R	Lecture: "Reading" Gendered Representations in the Media Class Discussion <p style="text-align: right;">Required Reading: Sardar & Van Loon, pp. 154-160 Sturken & Cartwright, pp. 56-67 Merskin, D. (2004). Reviving Lolita, WebCT</p>
Week 4 1.29 2.03	Reading Popular Feminisms	T	Film Excerpts: TBA
2.03		R	In-class project: Microanalysis of Assigned Text <p style="text-align: right;">Required Reading (Graduate): McRobbie, A. (1997). More! New Sexualities...in Magazines, WebCT Rakow, L. (1998). Feminist Approaches to Popular Culture, WebCT</p>

Week 5	Popular Feminisms	T	Lecture: Representing Feminisms in Popular Culture
2.05		R	Film Excerpt: TBA
2.07			Group Discussion: Popular Feminism Assignment Due: Typed In-Class Microanalysis of Assigned Text
Week 6	Raunch	T	Lecture: Raunch Culture and the Mainstreaming of Pornography Film Excerpts: Frontline: American Porn Assignment Due: Research Topic and Statement/Question Required Reading: Kinnick, K. (2007). Pushing the Envelope, WebCT
2.12			
2.14		R	Class Discussion: Raunch, Pop Porn, and the Circuit of Culture Required Readings (Groups Choose 1): Baéz, J. (2006). En Mi Imperio...Ivy Queen's reggaetón, WebCT Mahabir, C. (2001). The Rise of Calypso Feminism, WebCT Shapiro, S. (2005). Supa Dupa Fly: Black Women as Cyborgs, WebCT Shugart, H. and C. Waggoner(2005). A Bit Much: Spectacle, WebCT Wald, G. (1998). Just A Girl: Rock Music, Feminism, WebCT Westmoreland, K. (2003). "Bitch" and Lilith Fair, WebCT
Week 7	Music	T	Guest Lecturer – Music Video
2.19		R	Lecture: MTV and Music Culture Film Excerpts: Dreamworlds/Booty Nation
2.21			
Week 8	Music	T	In-class project: Feminism, Girl Power, and Music Assignment Due: Microanalysis of Text for Research Project
2.26		R	Lecture: Feminism, Girl Power, and Music (Review of Readings) Class Discussion Required Readings (Choose 1): Harris, K. (1998). D'Angelo and ...Black Male Body, WebCT Hawkins, S. and J. Richardson. (2007). Remodeling Britney Spears, WebCT Railton, D. and P. Watson. (2005). Naughty Girls, WebCT
2.28			
Week 9	Place and Space	T	Lecture: Group Presentation and Research Paper Overview Required Reading: Cashmore and Parker. (2003). One David Beckham? WebCT Required Reading (Graduate): Rahman, M. (2004). David Beckham as a Historical Moment, WebCT
3.04			
3.06		R	Lecture: Gendered Spaces Film Excerpt: <i>Far From Heaven</i> and <i>Safe</i>

Week 10	Spring Break	
Week 11 3.18 3.20	M	In-class project: David Beckham
	R	Lecture: Masculinities, Manhood, and Masculinities Film Excerpt: Tough Guise II or Wrestling Manhood Required Reading: Sardar & Van Loon, pp. 161-167, 106-107
Week 12 3.25 3.27	T	Lecture: Genre, Gender, and the Global Popular Assignment Due: Research Paper Draft
	R	Lecture: Genre, Gender, and the Global Popular (Continued) Required Reading (Groups Choose 1 Set): Rush Hour Pham, M. (2004). The Asian Invasion of Multiculturalism in Hollywood, WebCT Banerjee, M. (2006). The Rush Hour of Black/Asian Coalitions, WebCT Crash Berg, R. (2002). A Crash Course in Hollywood's Latino Imagery, WebCT Giroux, S. and H. Giroux (2007). Don't Worry, We Are All Racists! WebCT Traffic Shaw, D. (2005). "You Are Alright, But..." WebCT Beckham, J. (2005). Border Policy, Border Cinema, WebCT Bend It Like Beckham Giardina, M. (2003). "Bend It Like Beckham" in the Global Popular, WebCT Puar, J. and A. Rai (2004). The Remaking of the Model Minority, WebCT
Week 13 4.01 4.03	T	Lecture: Genre, Gender, and the Global Popular (Continued)
	R	Group Discussion: Framing Multiculturalism
Week 14 4.08 4.10	T	Lecture: Critical Issues in Gender and Popular Culture
	R	Open day
Week 15 4.15 4.17 4.22	Group Presentations	
Week 16 4.24	R	Lecture: Course Summary Assignment Due: Final Research Paper
Research Paper: Hardcopies of final research paper must be hand delivered to the professor in class on April 24 at 102 IWS Benson Building. No exceptions.		

The syllabus is a general plan for the course. Deviations will be announced in class and/or posted to WebCT.