Course Name

GNDS 125S/3.0 Gender, Race, and Popular Culture

Instructor

See SOLUS

Course Description

GNDS 125 examines popular culture from feminist and anti-racist perspectives, emphasizing the analysis of how gender and race are constructed and represented across diverse media forms and platforms. The course focuses on the production, representation, consumption, and reception processes of popular culture texts and unpacks how race, gender, sexuality, and class are constructed and reconstructed in media and popular culture. The course is designed to foster a critical understanding of (gendered, raced and classed) media productions and cultural texts within their social, political, cultural, and historical contexts. Learning how to do critical intersectional analysis by drawing on sample analyses the teaching team provides and practicing individually, in pairs and groups, students will critically engage with contemporary examples of popular culture.

Required Course Materials

All readings and audiovisual texts will be available through the library's ereserve and course onQ.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of GNDS 125/3.0 Gender, Race, and Popular Culture, you will be able to do the following:

- 1. Identify core concepts and theories in gender and feminist studies, antiracist and decolonization studies, and media studies fields as they pertain to gender studies
- 2. Apply key concepts and theories learned in class and through materials and learning activities to read media texts to make connections between everyday events, popular culture, politics, and social justice issues from a global perspective
- 3. Examine the construction and representation of gender, race, sexuality, class, (dis)ability, ethnicity, and nation in popular culture using critical intersectional frameworks for analyses
- 4. Reflect, in writing or through other media of their choice, on power, privilege, and oppression as they function in popular culture and new/social/digital media by also considering own (gendered/raced/classed) personal experience and perspective as a media producer and consumer
- 5. Employ an intersectional approach to analyze how processes of racialization and marginalization of certain social groups are constructed, represented, challenged, and/or negotiated in/through popular culture
- 6. Creatively respond to popular culture texts by engaging with the texts under analysis from gender studies, critical race theory, and social justice perspectives.
- 7. Apply academic research and writing skills, including ethical citation practice, to produce essays and other student work

Assessment and Evaluation

- Self-introduction and purpose statement 1% bonus points
- Scavenger Hunt quizzes 15%
- Fandom discussion/Media text review (e.g., film, music clip, advertisement, meme, game) 25%
- Creative project 30%
- Research paper 30%
- (Planning 10%; final 20%)
- Bonus points 2% (+1 point for providing feedback on instructor's planning, content delivery, communication effectiveness; +1% for providing feedback on tutorials)

Topics in Course Outline

- Week 1: Welcome to GNDS 125
- Week 2: Identity, normativity, and power
- Week 3: Racialization and intersectional analysis
- Week 4: Gender representations: Femininities
- Week 5: Gender representations: Masculinities
- Week 6: Queering pop culture production and consumption
- Week 7: Gender, technology, and the new media
- Week 8: Pop culture, colonialism, imperialism and orientalism
- Week 9: Gender, anti-black racism, racial capitalism, and pop-culture
- Week 10: Gender, anti-Indigenous racism, and settler colonialism
- Week 11: Gender and digital media: Creating consent culture
- Week 12: Inclusive futures and hope for solidarity across differences