

Spring 2010

Gender, Race, and Sexuality in Popular Culture

WS 53998-003: Variable Topics in Women's Studies

Mondays & Wednesdays 3:30 - 4:45 PM

Instructor:

Dr. Angelique V. Nixon, Women's Studies

This special topics course examines the articulations of gender, race, and sexuality in popular culture. We will explore the extent to which popular culture generates and determines our understandings of gender and sexuality and their intersections with race and class. We will study a variety of theories and critical methods in contemporary gender, race, class, and sexuality scholarship on media and popular culture. Using these frameworks as tools for analysis, we will discuss a number of sites of popular culture, including film, television, music, advertisements, print media, and web sources. We will consider that popular culture is never solely an amusement/diversion or mimetic representation. The images, sounds, and stories in popular texts are also media through which we imagine and practice femininities, masculinities, and sexualities. Hence, these texts reproduce gendered and sexualized images, which are also infused with class and racial stereotypes and hierarchies. Therefore, popular culture produces, reproduces, and reinforces a set of norms, thereby contributing to our constructions of self and identity. This course engages in critical analysis of dominant images and practices, along with alternative narratives, that perpetuate and/or disrupt these norms.

**For more information, please contact Dr. Nixon at
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