WGS-1520: WOMEN'S FILMS

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: WGS-1520 : Women's Films
Board of Trustees:
January 2022

Academic Term:
Fall 2022

Subject Code
WGS - Women and Gender Studies

Course Number:
1520

Title:
Women's Films

Catalog Description:
Introduction to the study of women and gender in films through study of classic and contemporary depictions. Use of film analysis in theme, character, plot, dramatic conflict, photography, sound, light, editing and acting.

Credit Hour(s):
3

Lecture Hour(s):
3

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite
None.

Outcomes
Course Outcome(s):
Demonstrate an understanding of the historical contexts shaping women's films.

Objective(s):
1. Describe women's participation in the film industry, both on and off screen, in the late 19th and early 20th century humanistic endeavors.
2. Identify historically prevalent stereotypes of women on screen (e.g., femme fetale, girl next door, vamp, etc.).
3. Recognize the ways that the Women's Movement of the 1960s and 1970s influenced women's participation in films.
4. Identify significant women writers, actors, directors, producers, and critics in the history of film, including an emphasis on the creative process for these various roles.
5. Explain relationships among varying historical contexts and their influence on the art of film.
6. Identify the impacts of factors such as ethnocentrism, colonialism, slavery, democracy, and imperialism on the medium of film.

Course Outcome(s):
Examine how multiple categories of difference such as race, color, language, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status influence the medium of film.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:
Cultural Sensitivity: Demonstrate sensitivity to the beliefs, views, values, and practices of cultures within and beyond the United States.

Objective(s):
1. Recognize images of stereotypes of women of color.
2. Identify images and stereotypes of lesbians, queer women, trans women, trans men, and gender non-conforming people in film.

3. Recognize stereotyped portrayals of women of various economic and class backgrounds in film.
4. Apply intersectional and transnational feminist theories to film analysis.
5. Identify how socio-cultural status and access to resources relates to representation of women on screen.

Course Outcome(s):
Explain the principles of feminist film theory.

Objective(s):
1. Identify specific examples of sexism in films.
2. Examine how different feminisms have influenced women's films.
3. Recognize common themes in films: violence and abuse, female sexuality, and women's roles in the family, workforce, and politics.
4. Described the ways in which concepts such as "male gaze" have shaped women's portrayals in film.

Course Outcome(s):
Apply theoretical and critical skills to film analysis in coherent and logical written critiques.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:
Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

Objective(s):
1. Evaluate film critiques through the lens of feminist film theory.
2. Demonstrate understanding of relevant terminology in written work.
3. Distinguish between feminist and non-feminist themes and techniques in film.
4. Develop original written film analyses or critiques demonstrating an appropriate understanding of a film's various contexts.
5. Recognize films as texts that are the product human imagination and critical thought.
6. Demonstrate empathy through the interpretation of intercultural experiences as portrayed on screen.

Methods of Evaluation:
1. Oral presentation analyzing film.
2. Midterm examination.
3. Final examination on reading materials and lecture topics.
4. Written film analysis.
5. Final evaluation of course and impact

Course Content Outline:
1. Historical Context of Women and Film
    a. Late 19th to Early 20th Century
        i. Significant films of the era (including silent film)
        ii. Important women in the film industry (e.g., actors, writers, directors, etc.)
    b. Late 20th to Present
        i. Significant films
        ii. Important women in the film industry (e.g., actors, writers, directors, etc..)
2. Film Theory & Feminist Theory
    a. Auteur theory
    b. Feminist
    c. Marxist
    d. Genre E. Adaptation
3. Representational issues
    a. Racialized depictions of women
    b. Images of women in global context
    c. Heteronormativity
    d. Class-based depictions of women
    e. Bechdel test
4. Elements of Film and film production

  a. Mise-en-scene
  b. Genre conventions
  c. Literary adaptation
  d. Editing
  e. Dialogue
  f. Sound, Lighting, Color
  g. Camera angles and shots
5. Film Criticism
  a. Selected women film critics
  b. Reading and writing critical essays
  c. Aesthetics
  d. Analysis of film texts

Resources

Baer, Nicholas, et al., (eds.). *Unwatchable*. Rutgers University Press, 2019.

Bauer, Laura L. S., editor. *Hollywood Heroines: the Most Influential Women in Film History*. Greenwood, an Imprint of ABC-CLIO, LLC, 2019.

Dines, Gail, et al., editors. *Gender, Race, and Class in Media: a Critical Reader*. Sage Publications, Inc., 2018.

Gaines, Jane. *Pink-Slipped: What Happened to Women in the Silent Film Industries?* . University of Illinois Press, 2018.

Handzo, Stephen. *Hollywood and the Female Body a History of Idolization and Objectification*. McFarland & Company, Inc., 2020.

Haskell, Molly and Manohla Dargis. . *From Reverence to Rape: the Treatment of Women in the Movies* . The University of Chicago Press, 2016.

Hollinger, Karen. *Feminist Film Studies*. Routledge, 2012.

Humm, Maggie. *Feminism and Film*. Edinburgh Univ. Press, 2008.

Jones, Naomi McDougall. *The Wrong Kind of Women: inside Our Revolution to Dismantle the Gods of Hollywood*. Beacon Press, 2020.

Jones, Norma, et al., editors. *Heroines of Film and Television: Portrayals in Popular Culture*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2016.

Kaplan, Elizabeth Ann. *Feminism and Film*. Oxford University Press, 2006.

King, Neal, et al. . *Gender in Film and Video*. Routledge, an Imprint of the Taylor & Francis Group, 2019.

Knight, Julie. *Doing Women's Film History: Reframing Cinemas, Past and Future*. University of Illinois Press, 2015.

McCabe, Janet. *Feminist Film Studies: Writing the Woman into Cinema*. Columbia University Press, 2012.

Murray, Theresa. *Studying Feminist Film Theory*. Auteur, 2019.

Nussbaum, Emily. *I Like to Watch: Arguing My Way through the TV Revolution*. Random House, 2019.

Piotrowska, Agnieszka. *The Nasty Woman and the Neo Femme Fatale in Contemporary Cinema*. Routledge, 2020.

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