

You will receive details about each assignment separately (except for class journals, see below). **All assignments must be completed and handed in on time at the beginning of class to avoid a grade reduction. If you are unable to turn in an assignment due to illness or a personal emergency, you must provide written documentation that will allow you to be excused, or discuss your situation with me in a timely manner. Do not wait until the end of the term to sort things out. Remember: this is YOUR responsibility.**

Class Journals:

You are required to keep a journal in a POCKET folder (no spirals or 3-ring binders, please). You will be expected to write TEN total entries over the course of the semester. Journal due dates are marked below in the class schedule depending on the first letter of your last name. If your entries are late, they will be marked down. Journals not turned in within a reasonable time frame will receive a "0". You must keep ALL past entries in the folder each time you turn in your journals.

Each time you turn in your folder, you should include TWO entries

- 1) ONE entry should comment on, analyze or offer a balanced critique of the reading for that week found in the course reader (no class handouts). In this entry, you must demonstrate that you have done the reading and thought about it. You may choose to write on one article or more than one.
- 2) ONE entry should offer a description of and reaction to media (film, television, magazines, newspapers, internet) that you see during the term (something outside of class screenings), analyzing the ways gender is portrayed and constructed in/by them. Comment on whatever you find interesting, engaging, hopeful, etc. about gender relations in contemporary media culture.

Grades for the journals will be based on a 10-point scale, assessing the completeness of your discussion and analysis (approximately 1-2 pages) and your comprehension and grappling of class readings/discussions/content. The following is a list of potential/suggested questions and topics you may want to write about in your journal:

- Watch a film (in a theater or on video) or a television show and consider the ways in which gender is constructed or gender relationships are portrayed. Do these portrayals seem limiting? Or do they challenge or open up new possibilities for experiencing/understanding gender?
- Go to a magazine stand and study the display of magazines. Which are for men? Which are for women? How do race, class, sexuality come across, if at all? How can you tell? Describe the display and the covers of the various magazines in as much detail as possible.
- Watch MTV until you see an all-female band. How does their video compare to the all-male bands? What type of program was it aired on? What did the VJ say about it?
- Alter one of the above suggestions with other media...use the web or the radio...

Assignments and Grading:

You are responsible for the material covered in class and in the reading. You will be evaluated on the following:

- 1) the level of your engagement with the class materials (as evidenced in your written work and class participation)
- 2) your capacity to explain your ideas and analysis in articulate and well-written forms
- 3) your ability to creatively explore those theories and methodologies

All of your work will be graded on two primary evaluative scales:

- 1) how well it demonstrates an understanding of the theories and methodologies of the class
- 2) how well it articulates and structures its argument

The final course grade will be based on the following distribution:

Class participation	10%
Class journals (10 total)	10%
Midterm (take home)	20%
Paper Prospectus	10%
Paper	30%
Final (in class)	20%

You must complete ALL of these assignments in order to pass the class. **Failure to complete ONE OR MORE of them will result in an F in the class.**

Course Grading Policy:

Grades will be assigned as follows:

A	outstanding, thoughtful and enthusiastic work
B+/B	above average work, demonstrating good insight into assignment
B-/C+	needs improvement on ideas, argument and follow through
C and below	fulfilling the bare minimum and showing little understanding of the material

Each assignment will be worth 100 points and will be converted to a percentage score depending upon the weight assigned to each. Your percentage scores on the assignments will be totaled and translated to a letter grade per the scale shown below:

A	= 100-94	C	= 76-74
A-	= 93-90	C-	= 73-70
B+	= 89-87	D+	= 69-67
B	= 86-84	D	= 66-64
B-	= 83-80	D-	= 63-60
C+	= 79-77	F	= 59-0

If you have concerns regarding a grade on a given assignment, you must appeal it in writing, stating the reasons why you feel the grade is inaccurate, within one week of receiving the graded assignment. No late appeals will be accepted for review.

Academic Integrity:

When taking this class, you enter into a contract that states that all the work you are turning in is your own and no one else's, and that you have not turned in any work for which you have received credit in another class. Do not take this policy lightly!

The School of Communication is committed to the highest standards of academic excellence and ethical support. It endorses and acts on the SCampus policies and procedures detailed in the section titled "University Sanction Guidelines." These policies, procedures and guidelines will be assiduously upheld. They protect your rights, as well as those of the faculty. It is particularly important that you be aware of and avoid plagiarism, cheating on exams, submitting a paper to more than one professor, or submitting a paper authored by anyone other than yourself. Violations of this policy will result in a failing grade in the course, and be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. If you have any doubts about any of these practices, you must confer with the professor.

Disability

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213)740-0776.

ESL Students

Please inform me as soon as possible if you require special accommodations based on your understanding of the English language.

Please complete the form attached to the back of this syllabus, attesting to the fact that you have read and understood all of these course policies.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (open to revision)

Week 1: **Nature-Nurture and the Question of Biology**

January 10 Introduction

January 12 Judith Lorber, "Believing Is Seeing: Biology as Ideology"

Week 2: **Gendering Children: Formations of Gender Identity**

January 17 Michael Messner, "Barbie Girls and Sea Monsters: Children Constructing Gender"

January 19 Ellen Seiter, "Buying Happiness, Buying Success: Toy Advertising to Parents"

Journals 1-2 due in class (A-L)

Week 3: **Gendered Spaces**

January 24 Anthony Rotunda, "Boy Culture"

January 26 Mary Kearney, "Producing Girls: Rethinking the Study of Female Youth Culture"

Journals 1-2 due in class (M-Z)

January 27 **Last day to drop without receiving a "W"**

Week 4: **Defining the Social Construction of Gender**

January 31 Sturken and Cartwright, "Spectatorship, Power and Knowledge"

February 2 Susan Bordo, "Introduction: Feminism, Western Culture, and the Body"

Week 5: **Theorizing Gender, Power and Desire**

February 7 Michel Foucault, from *The History of Sexuality, Volume I*
("We Other Victorians," "The Repressive Hypothesis," "Scientia Sexualis")

February 9 continue Foucault

Week 6: **Defining Masculinity**

February 14 Carol Cohn, "War, Wimps and Women"
Susan Faludi, "The Son, the Moon and The Stars: The Promise and Power of
Manhood"

February 16 Susan Bordo, "Can a Woman Harass a Man?"

Journals 3-4 due in class (A-L)

Week 7: **Male Sex(u)ality**

February 21 Richard Dyer, "Male Sexuality in the Media"
Richard Meyer, "Rock Hudson's Body"

February 23 Mary MacDonald, "Safe Sex Symbol? Michael Jordan and the Politics of
Representation"

Journals 3-4 due in class (M-Z)
MIDTERM HANDED OUT IN CLASS

Week 8: **Defining Femininity**

February 28 Susan Bordo, "The Body and the Reproduction of Femininity"
Sandra Lee Bartky, "Femininity, Foucault and the Modernization of Patriarchal
Power"

March 2 **MIDTERM EXAM DUE AT 11 AM**

In Class Screening

Week 9 **Unruliness and Containment**

March 7 Kathleen Rowe, "Roseanne: Unruly Woman as Domestic Goddess"

March 9 Cynthia Duquette Smith, "Discipline—It's a 'Good Thing': Rhetorical Constitution and
Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia"

Journals 5-6 due in class (A-L)

*******SPRING BREAK: MARCH 13-17*******

Week 10: **Production, Consumption and Empowerment**

March 21 Alison J. Clarke, "Tupperware: Suburbia, Sociality and Mass Communication"

TERM PAPER PROSPECTUS DUE IN CLASS 11 AM

March 23 Catherine Driscoll, "Girl Culture, Revenge and Global Capitalism: Cybergirls, Riot Grrls, Spice Girls"

Week 11: **Feminism and Other Dirty Words**

March 28 Susan Douglas, "I'm Not a Feminist But..."
Sarah Projansky, "The Post-feminist Context"

March 30 Jennifer Baumgardner and Amy Richards, "Feminism and Femininity: Or How We Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Thong"

Journals 5-6 due in class (M-Z)

Week 12: **Constructing Images of Race**

April 4 Ruth Frankenberg, "Questions of Culture and Belonging"

April 6 Sarah Banet-Weiser, "Fade to White: Racial Politics and the Troubled Reign of Vanessa Williams"

Journals 7-8 due in class (A-L)

Week 13: **(E)raced Bodies**

April 11 Patricia Hill Collins, "Mammies, Matriarchs and Other Controlling Images"
Tricia Rose, "Bad Sistas: Black Women Rappers and Sexual Politics in Rap Music"

April 13 Herman Gray, "Black Masculinity and Visual Culture"

Journals 7-8 Due in class (M-Z)

Week 14: **Troublesome Sexualities**

April 18 Larry Gross, "The Mediated Society"

April 20 Danae Clark, "Commodity Lesbianism"

Week 15: **Course Conclusion**

April 25 **TERM PAPER DUE at 11 am**

April 27 course conclusion

Journals 9-10 due in class (everyone)

April 29-May 2 Study Days

May 9 **FINAL EXAMINATION 11 am-1 pm**
ASC 204 (unless otherwise indicated)

*Please note: No student in a course with a final examination is permitted to omit or anticipate a final examination, and no instructor is authorized to permit a student to do so. Students are advised to plan in advance to avoid scheduling conflicts in their final examinations. Please schedule all travel for after 1 pm on May 9.

Please complete this section and return it by the end of the second day of class for my records. Thank you.

Please print the information in capital letters so it can be read clearly, except in the case of your e-mail address, which should be reproduced exactly as it appears:

Your name:

E-mail address:

Address:

Daytime phone:

Evening Phone:

How often do you check e-mail (Circle one):

Daily Once in two days Weekly Infrequently

What is your major?

What is your class standing? (i.e. freshman? sophomore?)

Have you ever taken a class in gender studies or a related field before? If so, what was the course?

Why are you taking this course?

Do you have a learning disability that has been reported to the Learning Center on campus?

Are you an ESL student?

Do you have an athletic, debate, or other schedule that may add to your absences? Please specify.

Is there any other information/concerns that you would like to share?

I certify that I have read and agreed to the terms specified in the attached syllabus:

Signature

Date