

## Images of Women on Stage and Screen

XIDS 2100 06 Arts and Ideas Special Topics

Fall 2007

Instructor: Dr. Amy Cuomo

T TH 2:00-3:15

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Office Hours: Mon. 1:30-5:00, Tue. 3:30-5:15 Wed. 3-6, Thurs. 3:30-5:15 and by appointment.

### Texts:

Ruth, Shelia, ed. *Issues in Feminism*. Mayfield, 2001.

Miles, Julia, ed. *A Theatre for Women's Voices*. Heinemen, 2003.

Shakespeare, William. *The Taming of the Shrew* (online).

Vogel, Paula. *How I Learned to Drive*. Samuel French, 1998.

Lane, Eric and Nina Shengold. *Plays for Actresses*, Random House, 1997.

### Performances:

Taming of the Shrew (Required) 10/3-10/6, 7:30 PM; 10/7, 2:30 PM - TCPA

The Shape of Things (Recommended) 11/14-11/17, 7:30 PM; 11/18, 2:30 PM -TCPA

**Web CT:** [http://mywebct.westga.edu:7900/webct/public/home.pl?action=print\\_home](http://mywebct.westga.edu:7900/webct/public/home.pl?action=print_home)

You may also log on to the University of West Georgia's home page: [www.westga.edu](http://www.westga.edu) and follow the links to the library or Web CT.

**Web CT HELPLINES:** Monday, Tuesday and Friday 9-5 PM and Wednesday and Thursday from 8 AM- 8 PM **678-839-6250**

**Library:** <http://www.westga.edu/~library/>

**Course Description:** *Images of Women on Stage and Screen* analyzes how women are portrayed in plays, movies and on television. Historical as well as contemporary representations of women will be discussed. This course is interdisciplinary and relies on feminist film theory, psychology, sociology and political science.

**Please Note:** The material presented in this course contains mature themes. Some of the plays, movies and articles contain language that some may find offensive. If you believe you will be unable to read/view assigned material you are advised to drop this course.

### Learning Objectives

- To be able to critically evaluate how gender is represented in films, plays and television
- To communicate clearly and accurately in informal written discussions
- To gain an understanding how media representations can affect our understanding of women
- To effectively evaluate and communicate, both orally and in writing, about images of women in the media
- To recognize the ideologies and values implicit in films in which gender is a primary issue.

## Student Responsibilities

- Please turn off your cell phone for the duration of the class.
- Please be on time for class and plan to stay for the entire period.**
- Be a courteous listener and present your ideas in a way that shows respect for your colleagues.
- Read the assigned material and be prepared to participate.
- You are responsible for all the material presented in class. If you miss class, please make sure you get the notes from a classmate.
- Changes in the syllabus or schedule will be announced in class -- make sure you note these changes.**
- Keep copies of all your written work and file your returned quizzes in a safe place.**
- If you have scheduling conflicts with the plays or have a documented absence that prevents you from completing an assignment, please make arrangements with me as soon as possible for completing your work.
- If you have any special needs or if there is anything I can do to assist you in succeeding in this course do not hesitate to let me know.
- Uphold the Academic Honor code as stated in the Undergraduate Catalogue.

## COURSE COMPONENTS

### Quizzes

There will be a quiz on each assigned plays. If a quiz is missed due to illness or a school event, the make up critiques are due one week after the quiz is missed. Please contact me immediately to make arrangement to complete your work.

### Events Folder

Students are required attend five (5) university sponsored events and collect **proof of attendance** in a folder that is due at the end of the semester.

### Reading Journal

Each student will keep a (**TYPED**) journal summarizing the main points of the reading assigned in *Issues in Feminism*. The journal must include the student's opinion regarding the material and relate the assignment to class discussions. The journal will be collected at midterm and near the end of the semester. (See the schedule). The two grades will be average together. Material from the first half of the semester will not be re-evaluated and must be completed before the midterm.

### Midterm

There will be a midterm covering material presented in class and found in your readings.

### Final

There will be a final covering material presented in class from after the midterm until the end of the semester. **Certain key concepts will carry over from the first part of the semester until the end and may appear on the final.**

### Grades

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
Below 60	F

### Course Components

Quizzes	20%
Reading Journal	35%
Midterm	15%
Final	15%
Events Folder	15%

## SCHEDULE

**The schedule is subject to change.** Note: Titles of books and full length plays are capitalized in formal writing. In order to keep the schedule easy to read, I have not used italicized fonts in the schedule.

Day	Date	Due	Class
TH	8/16	First Day of Class	Introduction
T	8/21	Issues in Feminism pgs. 1-31: Women's Studies, "Feminism, and the Women's Movement"	Gender Issues
TH	8/23	Taming of the Shrew – online	<b>QUIZ: Taming of the Shrew</b> Analyzing Plays and Film
T	8/28	Abingdon Square	<b>QUIZ: Abingdon Square</b>
TH	8/30	Little Victories in A Theatre for Women's Voices	<b>QUIZ: Little Victories</b> Iron Jawed Angels
T	9/4	Issues in Feminism pgs.505-514 "Our Feminist Foremothers"	Ironed Jawed Angels
TH	9/6	Continue to Work on your Reading Journal	Discuss Iron Jawed Angels
T	9/11	Issues in Feminism: pgs. 124-137 "The Portrayal of Women in Patriarchy"	The Good, The Bad and The Beautiful
TH	9/13	Continue to work on your Reading Journal	The Good . . . Cont.
T	9/18	Issues in Feminism pgs 191-199 "Myths to Divert Black Women from Freedom"	Imitation of Life (1959)
TH	9/20	Continue to work on your Reading Journal	Imitation of Life
T	9/25	Hand Out: Limitation of Life	Clips Imitation of Life 1939
TH	9/27	Issues in Feminism pgs 560-574 Woman as 'Other'" "The Problem that Has No Name"	Mildred Pierce
T	10/2	Hand Out: excerpt from "Blink"	Mildred Pierce
W	10/3	Taming of the Shrew Opens – See it this week! W-Sat 7:30 PM TCPA – Sun 2:30 PM	
TH	10/4	Three Tall Women	<b>Quiz: Three Tall Women</b>
T	10/9	<b>READING JOURNAL DUE</b>	Discuss UWG's Taming of the Shrew – Midterm Review
TH	10/11	Fall Break	
T	10/16	<b>Study for Midterm</b>	<b>Midterm</b>

TH 10/18	Hand out Play: "They That Sit in Darkness"	<b>Quiz: "They That Sit in Darkness"</b>
T 10/23	St. Lucy's Eyes in Theatre for Women's Voices	<b>Quiz: St. Lucy's Eyes The Baby Dance (Clips)</b>
TH 10/25	Continue to work on your Reading Journal	If These Walls Could Talk
T 10/30	How I Learned to Drive	The Burning Bed (clips) <b>Quiz: How I Learned to Drive</b>
TH 11/1	Issues in Feminism pgs 341-343 "Witnessing the Death of Love" Plays for Actresses: "Poof"	What's Love Got to Do with It (clips) <b>Quiz: Poof</b>
T 11/6	Issues in Feminism pgs 75-78 "What are Little Boys Made Of"	Wrestling and Manhood
TH 11/8	Issues in Feminism pgs 299-307 "The Lesbian Perspective"	The Tina Brandon Story
T 11/13	Continue to work on your reading journal	Clips: Boy's Don't Cry
TH 11/15	Issues in Feminism pgs 281-288 "Carnival Queen" Plays for Actresses: The Most Massive Woman Wins	The Swan Clips: Ms. Congeniality <b>Quiz: The Most Massive Woman</b>
T 11/20	Plays for Actresses: Beautiful Bodies	<b>Quiz: Beautiful Bodies</b>
T 11/22	Thanksgiving	No class
T 11/27	Finalize your reading journals	Antonia's Line <b>Reading Journals are due</b>
TH 11/29	Finalize your event folders	Antonia's Line <b>Event Folders are due</b>
T 12/4	FINAL EXAM	In class