

## Images of Women on Stage and Screen

XIDS 2100 Arts and Ideas Special Topics

Spring 05

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M-W 3:30-4:45

Instructor: Dr. Amy Cuomo

Phone: 678-839-4703

Office Hrs: M-W 11:00-12:00; 2-3:00

T-TH 2-5PM

### Texts:

Berger, John. *Ways of Seeing*. Penguin Books, 1973.

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

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

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

Watkins, Susan Alice and Marisa Rueda and Marta Rodriguez. *Introducing Feminism*. New York: Totem Books, 1997.

**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 State 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 at the beginning of 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 show respect for your classmates.

-Read the assigned material or see the assigned video before class and be prepared to participate.

-You are responsible for all the material presented in class. If you miss class, please make arrangements to get the notes.

**-The syllabus is subject to change. Please note all changes on your syllabus.**

**-Keep copies of all your written work.**

-If you have special needs or if there is anything I can do to assist your learning, please let me know.

## **COURSE COMPONENTS**

### **Participation and Attendance**

Much of the material covered in lectures will not be readily available outside of class; therefore attending class is to your benefit. Students are responsible to note all announcements and changes made to the syllabus in class.

### **Quizzes**

There will be quizzes on assigned plays and readings. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of the class periods. The five lowest quiz grades will be dropped; therefore, **no make up quizzes will be given.**

### **WEB CT Bulletin Board**

Each student will respond online to the material presented in class. Responses should be three to five hundred words in length and posted by the date listed on the WEB CT calendar. Responses WILL NOT be accepted past the corresponding test for the material covered.

### **Events Folder**

Students are required attend five (5) university sponsored events and write a brief reaction paper that should be typed, double spaced and two pages in length.

### **Exams**

There will be three exams covering material presented in class and in your readings.

### **Grades**

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

### **Course Components**

Quizzes 20%  
WEB CT Bulletin Board 20%  
Exams 40%  
Events Folder 20%

## SCHEDULE

The schedule is subject to change! All material listed as due may be subject to a quiz.

Day Date	Due	Class
M 1/10	First Day of Class	Introduction <i>Ladies First</i>
W 1/12	<i>Issues in Feminism</i> Chapter One – Issues in Feminism	Clips: <i>Gender Roles</i> <i>The F Word</i>
M 1/17	MLK Day – No class	
W 1/19	“The Adams Letter” 539	<i>Let the Women Vote</i>
M 1/24	Introducing Feminism p. 36-53 <i>Issues in Feminism – Constitutional Argument</i> p. 552	<i>Let the Women Vote (cont.)</i>
W 1/26	Play: <i>Little Victories</i>	How to analyze a play
M 1/31	<i>Issues in Feminism – Chapter Three</i>	Clips: <i>Gender Roles</i>
W 2/2	Play: <i>Abingdon Square</i>	Clips: <i>Little Foxes</i>
M 2/7	<i>Ways of Seeing</i> Chapters 1-3	Clips: <i>Gender Roles</i>
W 2/9	Review for Exam 1	Exam 1 All Posted Responses Due
M 2/14	<i>Issues in Feminism</i> <i>Woman as Other</i> p. 562	<i>The Good the Bad and the Beautiful</i>
W 2/16	Introducing Feminisms p. 98-123	<i>The Good the Bad and the Beautiful Cont</i>
M 2/21	Articles on WEB CT <i>Maternal Melodrama</i>	<i>Stella Dallas</i>
W 2/23	Article on WEB CT – <i>Stella Dallas</i>	<i>Stella Dallas (cont)</i>
M 2/28	Articles on WEB CT <i>Imitation of Life</i>	Clips: <i>Imitation of Life</i>
W 3/2	Articles on WEB CT Film Noir	<i>Film Noir</i>
M 3/7	Article on WEB CT <i>Mildred Pierce</i>	<i>Mildred Pierce</i>
W 3/9		<i>Mildred Pierce (cont)</i>
M 3/14	Article – TBA	<i>Black Cinema</i>
W 3/16	Review for Exam 2	Exam 2 All Posted Responses DUE

M 3/28	<i>Issues in Feminism</i> “Women and the New Race” 557	<i>Margaret Sanger</i> “They That Sit in Darkness” “The State Forbids” -- Hand Outs
W 3/30	Honors Convocation	
M 4/4	Play: <i>St. Lucy’s Eyes</i>	Discuss <i>St. Lucy’s Eyes</i>
W 4/6	<i>Issues in Feminism</i> “Letters to a Young Feminist” 320 Introducing Feminism p. 134-170	<i>If These Walls Could Talk</i>
M 4/11	<i>Issues in Feminism</i> “Rape” 221 “Witnessing the Death of Love” 341 <i>How I Learned to Drive</i>	<i>The Burning Bed (clips)</i>
W 4/13	<i>Issue in Feminism</i> <i>Chapter Two: Patriarchy Sexism and Masculinity</i>	<i>Video: Wrestling</i>
M 4/18	<i>Issues in Feminism</i> <i>The Lesbian Perspective 229</i>	Clips: <i>Boys Don’t Cry</i> Documentary: <i>The Tina Brandon Story</i>
W 4/20	<i>Issues in Feminism</i> “Carnival Queen” 281	“The Swan”
M 4/25	WEB CT Article Beauty	<i>Ms. Congeniality (clips)</i>
W 4/27	WEB CT Article Beauty	<i>Beautiful (clips)</i>
M 5/2	Review for Exam 3	Exam 3 All Posted Responses Due