

Prof. Rebecca Klatch
484 Social Science Building
Office Hours: Wed. 10:15-12:15

Winter 2009
Friday 11-1:50
SSB 101

Sociology 184: Gender and Film

This course explores the social construction and representation of gender both in and through film. We will combine the films with course readings to analyze how contemporary American culture constructs masculinity and femininity. The first week we'll discuss the meaning of gender. From there we will take up issues such as social control mechanisms that reinforce notions of masculinity and femininity, as well as the penalties of non-conformity; dominating images of femininity associated with love and romance; and dominating images of masculinity associated with violence. We will also discuss body image as it relates to class and race, the changing nature of fatherhood, sexuality, the realities of the labor force, and rape. The final week we will consider alternative images captured in ideas of escape and liberation. The emphasis of this course is not on analyzing film as a medium or film history. Rather, we are using films as texts to understand how gender both reflects cultural assumptions about gender and at the same time becomes a mechanism of social control that reinforces these assumptions.

Course Requirements

1) **Attendance and participation.** This course is not a lecture class. Each week we will watch a film and have a discussion of the film as it relates to the course readings. Because this is organized as a participatory course, **class attendance is mandatory. Any absences will count against you in grading.**

2) **Course readings.** There is an average of about eighty pages of reading each week, depending on the week. **Each student is expected to come to class having completed all of the readings listed for that week.** For example, when you come to class on January 16 you should have already finished all of the readings listed for this date. **All students should also come to class able and willing to participate in the discussion.**

2) **A take-home midterm exam will be given out in class on January 23.** The exam will be a **4-5 page essay which is due January 30 in class at 11 a.m.**

3) **A final paper (5-7 pages)** analyzing one theme and comparing the representation of this theme in the films shown in class will be due at the end of the course. A list will be handed out in class during the first week; each student will pick one theme to examine throughout the course. When you watch each film, take extensive notes on the content and characterization as it relates to gender. In addition, you should pay particular attention in all films to your chosen theme, making detailed observations to include in your final paper. The final paper will integrate the course readings on this topic with the films in class, examining how they confirm ideas in the class readings or depart from them. A fuller explanation of this assignment will be given out in class. **The final paper is due on March 16 at 484 SSB between 11:30 and 2:30**

p.m. You are welcome to turn in the paper before this date to the Sociology Department Office at 401 SSB. If you do this, make sure they stamp the date on your paper and tell them to leave it in my mailbox. **I will be leaving right at 2:30 on this day so do not turn an exam in late** as I will not receive it and it will **not** be counted in your grade. **There are no extensions for any written work in this course.**

Grades will be calculated based on the following weight:

Attendance and participation	10%
Midterm take-home exam	40%
Final paper	50%

All of the course readings are on e-reserves and are accessible through Geisel Library. All films will be shown in class and are on reserve at the UCSD library. In the event that you miss class, it is your responsibility to watch the film you missed.

PLEASE NOTE: POLICY ON ACADEMIC DISHONESTY. You should familiarize yourself with the University's policy on integrity of scholarship. Among its key points: all academic work is to be done by the student to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind on either in-class or take-home exams. The question has arisen in the past of the degree of collaboration among students that is allowed in preparing for these exams. Collaboration in studying is allowed; collaboration in writing is not. The written work you submit must be your own work. **Work submitted by two or more students that is substantially the same will not be accepted and, if the violation is considered serious, will be treated as academic dishonesty, constituting grounds for a grade of F in this course and will be referred to the college for administrative action.** The same is true of all forms of dishonesty including the use of the internet for any written work for this class. **Any use of the internet in preparing exams will also be considered a violation of academic honesty. According to university policies, plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course and may lead to dismissal from the university.**

Course Schedule

January 9: Introduction: What is Gender?

FILM: **Ma Vie en Rose** (1997, 88 min.)

January 16: The Social Construction of Gender and the Penalties of Non-Conformity

FILM: **Boys Don't Cry** (1999, 116 min.)

Kane, Emily, "'No Way My Boys are Going to be Like That!' Parents' Responses to Children's Gender Non-Conformity," Gender & Society vol. 20 no. 2 (April 2006): 149-176.

Michael Messner, "Barbie Girls versus Sea Monsters: Children Constructing Gender" in Men's Lives, 6th ed., Michael Kimmel and Michael Messner, eds., (Boston: Pearson Education, Inc.): 87-102.

Michael Kimmel, "A Black Woman Took My Job" in Women's Voices, Feminist Visions, 3rd ed., Susan Shaw and Janet Lee, eds. (Boston: McGraw Hill, 2007), pp. 465- 468.

Michael Kimmel, "Masculinity as Homophobia" in The Social Construction of Difference and

Inequality: Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality, 3rd. ed., Tracy Ore, ed. (Boston: McGraw Hill, 2006): pp. 133-150.

Paul Kivel, "The Act-Like-A-Man Box" in Men's Lives, 7th ed., Michael Kimmel and Michael Messner, eds. (Boston: Pearson Education, Inc.): pp. 148-150.

Carla Golden, "The Intersexed and the Transgendered: Rethinking Sex/Gender" in Lectures on the Psychology of Women, 3rd ed., Joan Chrisler, Carla Golden and Patricia Rozee, eds. (Boston: McGraw Hill, 2004): pp. 95-109.

January 23: Masculinity and Violence Take-Home Midterm Exam Handed Out

FILM: **Fight Club** (1999, 139 min.)

Michael Kimmel and Michael Messner, "Violence and Masculinities," in Men's Lives, 7th ed., pp. 539-540.

James Gilligan, "Culture, Gender, and Violence: 'We Are Not Women'" in Men's Lives, 7th ed., pp. 540-548.

Jackson Katz, "Ways of the Badass" in Men's Lives, 7th ed., pp. 549-574.

January 30: Men, Fatherhood, and Families

Midterm Exam Due in Class at 11 a.m. No late papers will be accepted.

FILM: **Kramer vs. Kramer** (1979, 105 min.)

Sean Elder, "The Emperor's New Woes" in Women's Voices, Feminist Visions, 3rd ed.: pp. 410-413.

Francine Deutsch, "Strategies Men Use to Resist" in Men's Lives, 7th ed.: pp. 401-407.

Scott Coltrane, "Stability and Change in Chicano Men's Family Lives" in The Social Construction of Difference and Inequality, 3rd ed.: pp. 255-276.

In-Sook Lim, "Korean Immigrant Women's Challenge to Gender Inequality at Home: The Interplay of Economic Resources, Gender, and Family," Gender & Society 11(1): 31-51.

Kathleen Gerson, "Dilemmas of Involved Fatherhood" in Reconstructing Gender, Estelle Disch, ed. (Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Co., 1997): pp. 272-281.

February 6: Body Image, Beauty, Race and Class

FILM: **Real Women Have Curves** (2002, 86 min.)

Christine Smith, "Women, Weight and Body Image" in Lectures on the Psychology of Women, 3rd ed., pp. 77-93.

Gigi Durham Meengleshi, "Girls, Media and the Negotiation of Sexuality" in Women's Voices, Feminist Visions, 3rd ed., pp. 217-227.

"Body Image Quiz" in Women's Voices, Feminist Visions, 3rd ed., pp. 239-241.

Lisa Rubin, Mako Fitts, and Anne Becker, "Body Ethics and Aesthetics Among African-American and Latina Women" in Women's Voices, Feminist Visions, 3rd ed., pp. 259-270.

Margaret Hunter, "Black and Brown Bodies Under the Knife," in Race, Gender, and the Politics of Skin Tone (New York: Taylor and Francis Group, 2005): pp. 53-67.

Lynne Luciano, Looking Good: Male Body Image in Modern America (New York: Hill and Wang, 2001): pp. 169-189.

February 13: Race, Culture and Sexuality

FILM: **Saving Face** (2004, 91 min.)

Yen Le Espiritu, "'We Don't Sleep Around Like White Girls Do': Family, Culture, and Gender in Filipina-American Lives" in Women: Images and Realities, 4th ed. (Boston: McGraw Hill, 2008): pp. 144-152.

Connie Chan, "Asian American Women and Adolescent Girls: Sexuality and Sexual Expression" in Lectures on the Psychology of Women, 3rd ed.: pp. 159-169.

Marcela Raffaelli and Lenna Ontai, "'She's 16 Years Old and There's Boys Calling Over to the House': An Exploratory Study of Sexual Socialization in Latino Families" in Shifting the Center: Understanding Contemporary Families, 3rd ed., Susan Ferguson, ed. (Boston: McGraw Hill, 2007): pp. 149-162.

Linda Garnets, "Life as a Lesbian: What Does Gender Have to Do With It?" in Lectures on the Psychology of Women, 3rd ed.: pp. 171-186.

February 20: Men and Women in the Labor Force

FILM: **North Country** (2005, 126 min.)

Ellen Bravo, Gloria Santa Anna, and Linda Meric, "An Overview of Women and Work" in Women: Images and Realities, 4th ed.: pp. 180-184.

National Committee for Pay Equity, "Questions and Answers on Pay Equity" in Women: Images and Realities, 4th ed.: pp. 185-187.

Irene Padavic and Barbara Reskin, "Gender Differences in Moving Up and Taking Charge" in Sociological Odyssey, 2nd ed., Patricia Adler and Peter Adler, eds. (Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth, 2007): pp. 281-290.

Arlene Foy Reynolds, "Sexual Harassment and the Law" in Women: Images and Realities, 4th ed.: pp. 204-206.

Jackie Krasas Rogers and Kevin Henson, "'Hey, Why Don't You Wear a Shorter Skirt?': Structural Vulnerability and the Organization of Sexual Harassment in Temporary Clerical Employment" in Women's Voices, Feminist Visions, 3rd ed.: pp. 486-497.

Beth Quinn, "Sexual Harassment and Masculinity: The Power and Meaning of 'Girl Watching'" in Men's Lives, 7th ed.: pp. 272-284.

February 27: Gender and Violence: Rape

Handout Directions for Final Paper

FILM: **The Accused** (1988, 111 min.)

Patricia Rozee, "Women's Fear of Rape: Cause, Consequences, and Coping" in Lectures on the Psychology of Women, 3rd ed., pp. 277-291

Peggy Sanday, "Naming and Studying Acquaintance Rape" in Women: Images and Realities, 4th ed.: pp. 511-518.

Patricia Yancey Martin and Robert Hummer, "Fraternities and Rape on Campus" in Feminist Frontiers, 7th ed., pp. 417-425.

Nathan McCall, "Trains," in Sex, Self, and Society, Tracey Steele, ed. (Belmont, CA: Thomson/Wadsworth, 2005): pp. 376-379.

"Men Changing Men" in Feminist Frontiers, 7th ed., pp. 426-428.

Michael Messner, "Friendship, Intimacy, and Sexuality," in The Masculinities Reader, Stephen Whitehead and Frank Barrett, eds. (Cambridge, England: Polity Press, 2001): pp. 253-265.

March 6: The Buddy Film: Alternative Visions

FILM: **Brokeback Mountain** (2005, 135 minutes)

C. J. Pascoe, "'Dude, You're a Fag': Adolescent Masculinity and the Fag Discourse," in Men's Lives, 7th ed., pp. 124-136.

Ritch Savin-Williams, "Memories of Same-Sex Attractions" in Men's Lives, 7th ed., pp. 94-110.

Read after seeing movie:

Nelson Rodriguez. 2008 "Review of Brokeback Mountain," Men and Masculinities 10: 376-378.

March 13: The Buddy Film: Alternative Visions/Escape/Liberation

FILM: **Thelma and Louise** (1991, 129 min.)

Susan Faludi, "Blame It On Feminism" in Women: Images and Realities, 4th ed., Amy Kesselman, Lily McNair, Nancy Schniedewind, and Suzanne Kelly eds. (Boston: McGraw Hill, 2008): pp. 577-583.

Debra Baker Beck, "The 'F' Word: How the Media Frame Feminism" in The Social Construction of Difference and Inequality, 3rd. ed.: pp. 458-472.

Yen Le Espiritu, "Cultural Resistance: Reconstructing Our Own Images" in The Social Construction of Difference and Inequality, 3rd. ed.: pp. 656-665.

Jennifer Baumgardner and Amy Richards, "A Day With Feminism" in Women's Voices, Feminist Visions, 3rd ed.,: pp. 739-743.

Read after seeing movie:

Janice R. Welsch, "'Let's Keep Goin'!': On the Road with Louise and Thelma" in Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls: Gender in Film at the End of the Twentieth Century, Murray Pomerance, ed. (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2001): pp. 249-265.

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You may turn in your paper earlier than March 16 by bringing it to SSB 401 and having them stamp the date on it and have them leave it in my mailbox.