



**DEPARTMENT OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES,
PROGRAM IN MEDIA STUDIES**

**WOME/MDST 3111/3530 Transnational approaches to media and gender/Transnational
approaches to women's studies
Winter 2016**

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Lecture posted: **Monday at noon**

Description:

The tendency of the West to speak on behalf of the rest of the world is well known. Thanks to large transnational communication conglomerates disseminating a-symmetrical flows of information, the West constantly makes assumptions about what is good and what is bad, what is scandalous and what is decorous for everybody, as political, social and cultural decision-making is based on a set of fairly homogeneous principles. This course is aimed to offer a different "situated" perspective focusing specifically on media and gender. Its goal is to emphasize a transnational perspective rather than a merely "international" one. Using the notions of intersectionality, transnational feminism, masculinity and decoloniality, we will lay down the basis for a multilayered understanding of the diverse intersections between race, gender, sexuality, masculinity and labor exploitation on a world scale, and in the context of emergent global capitalism.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To read and examine gender in a transnational media context
- To gain a historic and critical perspective on the concepts of situatedness, intersectionality, transnational feminism and their main tenets
- To acquire familiarity and a sophisticated critical awareness about media objects and phenomena that we often perceive from a Western-Eurocentric perspective

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Most readings will be on D2L

EVALUATION

Component (Paper, Participation, Test, Midterm, Exam, etc)	Value	Due Date	Individual/Group
Study questions and Media examples	15%	Ongoing	Individual
Forum Entries (4)	20%	Ongoing	Individual
Midterm (take home, open questions)	20%	Feb 12 (hand out on Feb 8)	Individual
Final Paper or multimedia project	25%	Mar 28	individual

Take-Home Exam (problem-based)	20%	Apr 4 (hand out Mar 28)	individual
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PARTICIPATION & DISCUSSION

Study Questions and Media Examples 15%

This exercise will evaluate your individual ability to interpret the readings, to ask pertinent questions and to apply theoretical concepts to the media practices we will examine during each week.

Every week has a discussion topic. You will have two options:

- 1) Ask two questions about the readings for the week
- 2) Ask one question + one media examples that you think is resonating (or is establishing a dialogue) with the reading

Questions are due on Monday morning at 11:30 (before I upload class content for the week). Every week I will review your questions and media and will choose 1 or two items for further discussion in the forum

Forum Discussion (4) 5% each = 20%

Each of you will participate to the forum with at least 4 entries each.

Each week I will pick a forum question from the set of questions you have asked. Read the question and respond critically by articulating your answer in relation to the readings. Please, answer honestly, but respectfully, and do cite the readings.

Remember: because the online forum often feels a bit impersonal you might be under the impression that everything goes. Remember that people read your answers and I grade them. Grammar and syntax are important; shallow answers, disrespectful, sexist, or racist considerations will not be tolerated.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1) Take-Home Midterm hand out on Feb 8, due on Feb. 12 20%

This midterm will consist in 5 essay questions (3 are questions and 2 are media examples) on the topics discussed so far. Choose and answer 3 (2 must be questions and 1 media examples).

Length is 1 page each minimum (250 words). Each answer must make reference to at least one of the readings (readings must be different, do not use the same reading for all)

2) Take-Home hand out Mar. 28, Final Due Apr. 4 20%

Final exam will consist of 5 problem-based questions selected from the issues we identified during our discussions. Pick 3 questions and assess the problem using at least 1 reading to assist you

3) Final Paper due on Mar 28 25%

GRADING SCHEME:

A+	90 to 100%	Outstanding understanding of the course concepts including integration of materials and ideas, ability to apply knowledge to situations
A	80 to 89%	Above average to excellent knowledge, ability to apply knowledge to situations
B	70 to 79%	Satisfactory knowledge including ability to recognise and apply major course concepts, and to progress to next level of course
C	60 to 69%	Some grasp of course concepts; will likely encounter difficulty with higher levels

E	40 to 49%	Failed to meet minimum requirements of the course
F	1 to 39%	Failure
F	0	Failure resulting from academic dishonesty

Students are advised to refer to the University Calendar to ensure that they have adequate grades and/or average to proceed in their program.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 Jan 4	introduction to Gender and media Instructions Content for each week will be uploaded on Mondays by noon
Week 2 Jan 11	Intersectionality Salem, Sarah. 2015. "Decolonial Intersectionality and a Transnational Feminist Movement." <i>The Feminist Wire</i> . Accessed December 14. Lorde, Audre, and Cheryl Clarke. 2007. "The Master's Tool Will Never Dismantle the Master's House." In <i>Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches</i> , Reprint edition, 110–14. Berkeley, Calif: Crossing Press. Excerpts: Anzaldúa, Gloria, Norma Cantu, and Aida Hurtado. 2012. "La Coscientia de la Mestiza/Towards a New Consciousness". In <i>Borderlands / La Frontera: The New Mestiza</i> . Fourth Edition edition. San Francisco: Aunt Lute Books. 99-113
Week 3 Jan 18	Transnational feminism Ross, Luana. 2009. "From the 'F' Word to Indigenous/Feminisms." <i>Wicazo Sa Review</i> 24 (2): 39–52. doi:10.1353/wic.0.0041. Nagar, Richa. 2014. "Introducing Muddling the Water." In <i>Muddying the Waters: Coauthoring Feminisms across Scholarship and Activism</i> , 1st Edition edition. University of Illinois Press.
Week 4 Jan 25	Masculinity and Transnational media Beasley, Christine. 2008. "Rethinking Hegemonic Masculinity in a Globalizing World." <i>Men and Masculinities</i> 11 (1): 86–103. doi:10.1177/1097184X08315102. Song, Geng. 2010. "Chinese Masculinities Revisited: Male Images in Contemporary Television Drama Serials." <i>Modern China</i> 36 (4): 404–34. doi:10.1177/0097700410368221.
Week 5 Feb 1	Sexuality Lorde, Audre, and Cheryl Clarke. 2007. "Uses of Erotic: The Erotic as Power." In <i>Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches</i> , Reprint edition, 53–59. Berkeley, Calif: Crossing Press. Alexander, M. Jacqui. 2005. <i>Pedagogies of Crossing: Meditations on Feminism, Sexual Politics, Memory, and the Sacred</i> . Duke University Press Books.
Week 6 Feb 8	Politics of representation Cavanagh, Sheilagh and Heather Sykes (2006): <i>Transsexual Bodies at the Olympics: the International Olympic Committee's Policy on Transsexual Athletes at the 2004 Athens Summer Games</i> . <i>Body and Society</i> 12(3): 75-102

	Hegde, Radha S. 1998. "A View from Elsewhere: Locating Difference and the Politics of Representation from a Transnational Feminist Perspective." <i>Communication Theory</i> 8 (3): 271–97. doi:10.1111/j.1468-2885.1998.tb00222.x.
NO CLASS FAMILY DAY	
Week 7 Feb 22	Labor Louie, Miriam Ching Yoon (2001): <i>Sweatshop Warriors: immigrant women workers take on the global factory</i> . Cambridge, MA: South End Press Roberts, Adrienne. 2015. "The Political Economy of 'Transnational Business Feminism.'" <i>International Feminist Journal of Politics</i> 17 (2): 209–31. doi:10.1080/14616742.2013.849968.
Week 8 Feb 29	Mobility and Globalization Sassen, Saskia. 2000. "Women's Burden: Counter-Geographies of Globalization and the Feminization of Survival." <i>Journal of International Affairs</i> 53 (2): 503. Piper, Nicola. 2006. "Gendering the Politics of Migration." <i>International Migration Review</i> 40 (1): 133–64. doi:10.1111/j.1747-7379.2006.00006.x.
Week 9 Mar 7	Women and High Tech Van Doorn, Niels (2011): <i>Digital spaces, material traces: How matter comes to matter in online performances of gender, sexuality and embodiment</i> . Media Culture Society 33: 531-547. Gajjala, Radhika. 2015. "When Your Seams Get Undone, Do You Learn to Sew or to Kill Monsters?" <i>The Communication Review</i> 18 (1): 23–36. doi:10.1080/10714421.2015.996411.
Week 10 Mar 14	Of Veils and Sluts Kumar, Deepa. 2014. "Imperialist Feminism and Liberalism." <i>openDemocracy</i> . October 30. http://www.opendemocracy.net/deepa-kumar/imperialist-feminism-and-liberalism . Carr, Joetta. 2013. "The SlutWalk Movement: A Study in Transnational Feminist Activism." <i>Journal of Feminist Scholarship</i> , no. 4 (Spring).
Week 11 Mar 21	Black Lives Matter and Transnational feminism Soto, Sandra. 2005. "'Where in the Transnational World Are U.S. Women of Color?'" In <i>Women's Studies for the Future: Foundations, Interrogations, Politics</i> , edited by Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy and Agatha Beins, 111–24. Rutgers University Press. Bess, Gabby. 2015. "Alternatives to Alternatives: The Black Grrrls Riot Ignored." <i>Broadly</i> . Accessed December 26.
Week 12 Mar 28	Wrap-up class