

COURSE TITLE: Picturing Race and Gender

COURSE NUMBER: HIST 2400/WGST 2998

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: HIST 2400.01/WGST 2998.01 TuTh 1:50 p.m.-3:20 p.m.
HIST 2400.02/WGST 2998.02 TuTh 3:50 p.m.-5:20 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Constance Chen

CORE AREA: Satisfies the Studies in American Diversity (FDIV) Requirement

HISTORY CONCENTRATION: Race, Gender, and Culture

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS:

Using interdisciplinary approaches and cross-cultural perspectives, this class explores the ways in which visual imageries have been used to create and shape notions of race and gender, both reflecting and influencing socioeconomic relations and political modalities in the United States from the nineteenth to the twenty-first century. We will examine a wide variety of cultural productions such as artworks, political cartoons, museum exhibitions, television programs, films, photographs, music videos, and advertisements to analyze questions concerning the construction of gender-role expectations, interracial exchanges, and the establishment of national identities, among others.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

To acquire an understanding of the political and cultural significance of the construction and dissemination of racial and gender discourses through visual representations; to learn to unpack visual imageries and material culture as important historical sources; to analyze and discuss primary and secondary documents in order to gain a comprehension of the different approaches and methodologies that scholars from a multitude of disciplines and fields have used to examine American culture; and to synthesize and critically evaluate the information presented to develop independent points of view on how various peoples and communities have been portrayed, and in turn, have portrayed themselves.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND:

None

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Readings will include *Exhibiting Cultures: The Poetics and Politics of Museum Display* (1992), *Culture Across Borders: Mexican Immigration and Popular Culture* (1998), *Comic Book Nation: The Transformation of Youth Culture in America* (2003), *Race Rebels: Culture, Politics, and the Black Working Class* (1994), and *Global Asian American Popular Cultures* (2016), among others.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:

Students will be evaluated on the basis of their contribution to class discussions, work on analytical essays as well as other assignments and activities designed to delve further into the class topics and themes.

Term: Spring 2021

Course Title: Gender and Disability

Course Number: WGST 3998

Section Times/Days: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30 – 4pm ONLINE

Instructor: Amanda Apgar

Course Description/Principal Topics

WGST 3998: Gender and Disability is a critical feminist study of disability justice, hetero-ableism, and normality. This course examines: the ways in which disability and gender are socially constructed and co-constructed via rhetoric of dependence and autonomy; the centrality of “interdependence” to both feminist and disability justice movements; the entanglement of disability and gender in over-diagnosis, underdiagnosis, and over- and under-representation of disability in cultural texts; disability and sex, including consent, competence, and access; and legal and cultural issues of disability justice in Spring 2021.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the conclusion of this course, course members will:

1. Understand foundational premises of feminist disability studies
2. Become skilled in reading and interpreting interdisciplinary texts
3. Apply what they have learned to analyze representations of gender and disability in cultural texts
4. Evaluate existing medical, legal, cultural, or institutional policy regarding gender and disability

Prerequisites

None.

Required Texts

No required texts for purchase.

Course Work/Expectations

Course members will be required to: read all assigned materials and come to class prepared to actively participate in discussions; participate in peer review and other models of interdependence; produce written assignments that synthesize key ideas from the course and assigned texts; produce an independent research paper at the end of the term.