

FILM 3301 A/WGST 3812 F: Analyzing Cinema, Gender, and Sexuality

Course Description

How do moving images participate in the production of gender and sexuality? In what ways is this process inflected by race, ethnicity, class, and national identity? This course will investigate the crucial role of normative and “deviant” genders and sexualities in the history of cinema production, distribution, and reception. We will investigate the way audiovisual texts use formal means to make gender visible and the display of gender difference pleasurable. We will also consider the gendered politics of labor in film industries and the ways that genre systems (like the romantic comedy) produce gendered meanings and forms of address. The course will also investigate the ways that feminist, Indigenous, transgender, and queer filmmakers have inventively rethought cinema and video for poetic and political ends.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this term, students will be able to:

- Give a nuanced account of gender and sexuality that takes into account historically- and geographically-specific meanings and a wide array of gender expressions and identities.
- Notice the narrative and formal elements of an audiovisual text (e.g. mise-en-scene, editing, cinematography, and sound) and use these elements to sustain an argument about a media text in conversation with existing scholarship.
- Write an accessible, well-researched entry for Wikipedia, bringing information about notable cis women and transgender media workers to a global readership

Assignments (Subject to change)

- Wikipedia project
- Final essay