

Carleton University
Fall 2017
Pauline Jewett Institute of Women's and Gender Studies
WGST 2812A- Special Topic: *Masculinity in Popular Culture*
Wednesdays 11:35am -1:25pm
Location: TB 240
Instructor: Katharine Bausch
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Office Hours: Wednesday 4:00pm – 5:00pm

- *This outline is preliminary and subject to change*

Course Description: This course considers the ways in which masculinities are socially constructed through popular culture, including film, television, sport, social media, fashion, print media, and music. We focus on how characterizations, such as fathers, husbands, warriors, workers, athletes, and more, shape and are shaped by social and historical structures of masculinity. Further, we explore how gender, race, class, ability, sexuality, age, and other identities intersect with masculinities in popular culture. While much popular culture comes from North America, we investigate popular culture from around the globe and throughout history in order to understand how ideas of masculinity change with time and place.

Course Objectives:

1. critically consider the ways in which masculinities are represented in popular culture
2. apply feminist and intersectional frameworks to interpretations of masculinities in popular culture
3. learn how to use critical gender and popular culture theories
4. become aware of the complexity of the issues surrounding gender and popular culture and how these issues relate to race, class, sexuality, ability, status, and age
5. improve your written and oral communication skills

Required Course Materials:

Readings are available online or through CuLearn.

Course Evaluation:

Father Knows Best	15%
Critical Film Analysis	20%
Grant Proposal	20%
In-Class Test	25%
Tutorial Participation	20%

1. Father Knows Best

For this assignment you will choose a representation of a father in popular culture (from television, comics, film, literature etc.) to critically reflect on. You will consider:

- a) What attributes does this father possess?
- b) How does this father interact with other people in the family (children, spouse, etc.)?
- c) Does this father embody stereotypically “masculine” qualities?
- d) How does an intersectional analysis of this father affect the representation (*think about race, gender, ability, class, sexuality, age, etc.)?

Then, in a 2-3-page paper, you will answer the question: “Does the father in this piece of popular culture represent a hegemonic ideal of fatherhood? Why/why not?” You should have a clear position backed with evidence from the source. No outside sources are necessary. More details can be found on the assignment sheet, which is on CuLearn.

2. Critical Film Analysis

We will watch a film together as a class. After, you will write a 4-5-page critical analysis of the ways in which masculinities operate in the film. Don’t forget to use an intersectional analysis (consider race, gender, ability, class, sexuality, age, etc.). Your paper should have a clear argument backed up with evidence from the film and at least **2** course readings. More details can be found on the assignment sheet, which is on CuLearn.

3. Grant Proposal

For this assignment you will write a 4-5- page grant proposal asking for money to create a new popular culture product (a film, a television show, a musical album, a book, a comic book etc.) that challenges stereotypes of masculinity. In this proposal you will explain what your product will look like, who will be involved, and why it challenges norms of masculinity. The details of what you need to include in this proposal can be found on the assignment sheet, which is on CuLearn.

4. In-Class Test

The in-class test will consist of short answers that ask you to consider lecture and reading material. It will take place in a 2-hour class period.

5. Tutorial Attendance & Participation:

Tutorial attendance and participation are mandatory. All students are expected to do the assigned readings, attend tutorials regularly, and participate. Your attendance/participation mark will be determined based on evidence that you regularly read the assigned material, come to tutorial prepared to engage with that material, and actively participate in discussions. Please keep in mind that your participation is not simply evaluated based on how often or how much you contribute. The *quality and thoughtfulness* of your contributions and your demonstrated respect for others in the discussion will influence evaluation of your attendance/participation grade. If you are uncomfortable speaking up in tutorial, please contact your tutorial leader early in the year to review strategies for participation.

Remember, you cannot achieve “participation” marks for missed tutorials, so consistent attendance is crucial. If illness or other unavoidable issues cause you to miss multiple tutorials you will need to keep me advised of the situation and an accommodation plan can be considered.