

## **G225: Gender, Sexuality, and Popular Culture**

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Spring 2012

Tuesdays & Thursdays 05:45 p.m. to 07:00 p.m., Ballantine Hall 148  
Section #32916

### **Prof. Georges-Claude GUILBERT**

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Gender Studies main office: Memorial Hall 130 East, 855-0101

### **Course Description:**

This class examines the construction and representation of femininity and masculinity within and through Anglophone popular culture. Using a variety of theoretical perspectives, it explores gender, sexuality and power relations in film, television, pop music, etc.

### **Warning:**

Please note that this course covers sexual material. It includes explicit language and pictures. It uses feminist theory that goes against some of the teachings of all monotheistic religions, and it discusses LGBTQI concerns. If you are uncomfortable with this, please do not take this course. This class is “personal” in different ways, your experiences and beliefs matter, but so does your tolerance of other people’s experiences and beliefs. Personal attacks and derogatory remarks will not be accepted.

### **Strongly recommended reading:**

**Hartley, John.** *A Short History of Cultural Studies*. Thousand Oaks: Sage, 2003 (available at the library).

(Books can be purchased at Boxcar Books, 408 East 6<sup>th</sup> Street, 339-8710, right next to the Runcible Spoon)

**Required readings** available on my website:

32 PDF documents

<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/barthelemy.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/butler.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/delauretis.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/doty1.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/doty2.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/dyer1.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/dyer2.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/fahy.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/gapper.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/garber1.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/garber2.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/gauntlett.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/hoffmann.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/hooks.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/hopcke.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/mcbride.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/mccarthy.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/meyer.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/modleski.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/mulvey.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/paglia.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/rodger.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/rupaul.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/sedgwick.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/segal.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/simpson.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/sontag.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/steinem.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/sterling.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/susann.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/walters1.pdf>  
<http://www.georgesclaudeguilbert.com/walters2.pdf>

All materials covered in **Required readings**, screened and/or discussed in class will potentially be featured in exams.

**Evaluation**

## Assignments

Critical essay on popular culture #1 due February 7	20%
Critical essay on popular culture #2 due March 27	20%
Midterm exam March 1	25%
Final exam May 3	25%
Attendance and participation	10%

(Essays should be formatted thus: one inch margins, double spaced, 12-point font, Times New Roman. Please make sure that multiple-page essays are stapled. Like uncivil behavior, plagiarism runs counter to the philosophy of this class.

MLA format required. See [owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/09/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/09/))

**Grading Scale:**

93-100	A
90-92	A-
88-89	B+
83-87	B
80-82	B-
78-79	C+
73-77	C
70-72	C-
68-69	D+
63-67	D
62-60	D-
0-59	F

## **Policies**

Attendance will be monitored. Two “free” absences. More than two unexcused absences may lower your final grade. Tardiness will also be monitored. Please be in your seat and ready for class to start at the appointed hour.

There will be no texting, no e-mailing, no using lap top computers in class (if you *need* to use a lap top for note taking, please let me know).

There might be minor changes made to the syllabus throughout the semester. You would be notified in class.

## **Calendar:**

The following reading calendar is inclusive. We will discuss materials on the dates shown.

### Week 1

Tuesday, January 10

**Introduction: Cultural Studies, Gender Studies, Queer Theory I**

Thursday, January 12

**Introduction: Cultural Studies, Gender Studies, Queer Theory II**

**Prep. Critical essays**

### Week 2

Tuesday, January 17

**Reading: Butler**

**Screening excerpts from *Morocco, Blonde Venus***

Thursday, January 19

**Reading: Sterling**

**Screening excerpts from *Morocco, Blonde Venus***

### Week 3

Tuesday, January 24

**Reading: Walters1**

**Screening clips from *Cabaret***

**Screening Madonna & Grace Jones videos**

Thursday, January 26

**Reading: Doty1**

**Screening clips from *Cabaret***

**Screening Madonna & Grace Jones videos**

Week 4

Tuesday, January 31

**In-class screening: *Some Like It Hot*, part I**

Thursday, February 2

**Reading: Garber1, RuPaul**

**In-class screening: *Some Like It Hot*, part II, discussion**

Week 5

Tuesday, February 7

**Personal essay #1 due**

**Screening clips from *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes***

**Screening Madonna videos**

Thursday, February 9

**Reading: Dyer1, Gauntlett**

**Screening David Bowie, Britney Spears & Lady Gaga videos**

Week 6

Tuesday, February 14

**Reading: Fahy, Gapper**

**Screening Britney Spears, Katy Perry & Lady Gaga videos**

Thursday, February 16

**Reading: Dyer2, Steinem**

**Screening Kylie Minogue videos**

Week 7

Tuesday, February 21

**Reading: Simpson, Sedgwick**

**Screening clips from *Starship Troopers*, *Mrs. Doubtfire*, *X-Men2***

Thursday, February 23

**Reading: Barthelemy, McCarthy**

**Screening clips from *Grease***

**Screening Elvis Presley videos**

Week 8

Tuesday, February 28

**Reading: Garber2**

**Midterm exam prep.**

Thursday, March 1

**Midterm exam**

Week 9

Tuesday, March 6

**Reading: hooks, McBride**

**Screening clips from TV series *True Blood***

Thursday, March 8

**Reading: Mulvey, Walters2**

**Screening clips from *action movies***

Week 10

Tuesday, March 20

**Reading: DeLauretis, Doty2**

**Screening clips from *The Wizard of Oz***

Thursday, March 22

**Reading: Hopcke**

**Screening clips from *The Wizard of Oz***

**Screening clips from TV series *Bewitched***

Week 11

Tuesday, March 27

**Personal essay #2 due**

Thursday, March 29

**Reading: Modleski, Hoffmann**

**Screening clips from TV series *Desperate Housewives***

Week 12

Tuesday, April 3

**Reading: Rodger**

**Screening Eurythmics & RuPaul videos**

**Screening clips from TV series *Nip/Tuck S02***

Thursday, April 5

**Guest lecturer: Brenda R. Weber, "Gender Politics and Makeover TV."**

Week 13

Tuesday, April 10

**Reading: Sontag**

**In-class screening: *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert***

Thursday, April 12

**Reading: Meyer**

Week 14

Tuesday, April 17

**Reading: Susann**

Thursday, April 19

**Reading: Paglia**

Week 15

Tuesday, April 24

**Reading: Segal**

Thursday, April 26

**Final exam prep**

Final exam

Thursday, May 3

07:15 p.m. to 09:15 p.m. in our regular classroom

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