

TITLE: LEH 301: WOMEN AND MINORITIES IN FILM & LITERATURE

INSTRUCTOR: Jean Hodge

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TEXT BOOK: "America on Film: Representing Race, Gender & Sexuality at the Movies" Harry M. Benshoff, et al.

LOCATION/DAYS: TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS, Carmen/224, 2:00PM-3:15PM

OFFICE HOURS: Thursdays, 3:15PM-4:15PM - by appointment, Carmen/269

COURSE OBJECTIVE: In this course, we will focus on the uniqueness of women and minorities in film, from early 1900-present. We will examine the images, impact, messages and how they affect women and ethnic groups, including questions of gender bias, race and ethnicity. What unique contributions have women and people of color made in film? Has politics had any bearing on the roles played by women and minorities in film? The issue of stereotypes will also be confronted, in an attempt to comprehend recurring distortions in characteristics. Finally, we will look at the depiction of women and minorities on the screen and analyze how their characters might serve as valuable tools for stimulating sensitivity.

This writing intensive course will combine film study, literature, and political science and history in examining works that includes, David Wark Griffith's "**The Birth of a Nation,**" and Akira Kurosawa's "**Ikiru.**"

We will discuss each film as an individual work and as a consumable cultural artifact. **No hand written assignments will be accepted.**

ATTENDANCE AND LATENESS: Class participation will have an impact on your grade so arriving on time and staying for the entire class is important. If you are not present you cannot participate. Therefore, more than two absences will result in a lower grade.

Students missing a class will be held responsible for the material covered. If you miss an oral presentation for which you are responsible, you will receive a failing grade for that assignment. It is strongly suggested that if students will be late or will miss class that the instructor be contacted. However, this does not mean that an absence will be excused. The instructor will make that decision.

GRADING CRITERIA: A letter grade will be assigned each student consistent with the CUNY grading policy upon the successful completion of all course work. Grade distribution will be as follows:

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| - Film Critique assignments | 40% |
| - Midterm | 20% |
| - Final assignment | 20% |
| - Participation, attendance, punctuality | 20% |

HONOR SYSTEM: The CUNY honor system is a tradition. Each student, upon acceptance to CUNY, agrees to abide by the guidelines. Students are on their honor to neither give nor receive unauthorized aid in the completion of an assignment. Therefore, students must acknowledge reliance on outside sources, with appropriate documentation. Students are expected to do their own work. Another part of the honor system is that each student will not allow another student to violate the honor code. Suspected academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to University policy and may result in the student receiving an “F” in the course. Students are strongly encouraged to talk with the instructor about any questions regarding the honor system.

CLASS TOPICS (APPROXIMATE & SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

WEEK 1:

1/30 – Distribution of Syllabus, introductions and discussion of class objectives.

2/1 -

WEEK 2:

2/6 – Chapters 1-2

2/8 –

WEEK 3:

2/13 – SCREENING

2/15 - NO CLASS

WEEK 4:

2/20 – SCREENING

2/22 – Assignment/Discussion: Chapters 3-4

WEEK 5:

2/27 – Assignment/Discussion: Chapter 5-6

3/1 – SCREENING

WEEK 6:

3/6 - SCREENING

3/8 – Assignment/Discussion

WEEK 7:

3/13 – Assignment:

3/15 – Chapter 7

WEEK 8:

3/20 – Assignment/Discussion: Chapter 8

3/22 – Assignment/Discussion

WEEK 9:

3/27 – Assignment/Discussion: Chapters 9-10

3/29 – Assignment/Discussion

WEEK 10:

4/3 – No Class – Spring Break

4/5 – No Class - Spring Break

WEEK 11:

4/10 – No Class – Spring Break

4/12 – Assignment/Discussion: Chapter 11-12

WEEK 12:

4/17 – Assignment/Discussion: Chapter 13

4/19 – Assignment/Discussion: SCREENING

WEEK 13:

4/24 – Assignment/Discussion: SCREENING

4/26 – Assignment/Discussion

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WEEK 14:

5/1 – Assignment: Chapter 14

5/3 – Assignment: Chapter 15

WEEK 15:

5/8 – Assignment/Discussion

5/10 – Assignment/Discussion

WEEK 16:

5/15 – Discussion

5/17 - Discussion