Course Description
This course studies works of film and media as representational objects that engage with communities identified by intersectional categories including sex, gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, nation, class, and ability. It considers historical and contemporary effects of prejudice, intolerance, and discrimination on media and filmmaking practices and modes of reception, as well as alternative strategies that promote cultural understanding and a valuing of diversity. ENG 381 satisfies the Arts and Letters group requirement by actively engaging students in the ways the discipline of film and media studies has been shaped by the study of a broad range of identity categories and by promoting an understanding of cinema as an art form intimately intertwined with its various social contexts. ENG 381 also satisfies the Identity, Pluralism, and Tolerance multicultural requirement by enabling students to develop scholarly insight into cinematic representational strategies. The range of American and international content satisfies the global multicultural requirement.

The topic for this section of ENG381 is “Gender on Film,” structured around pertinent questions in the intellectual history of feminist film theory. This course is reading and discussion intensive. It is designed for both new and experienced film students with the curriculum including both introductory and advanced content. Students will ultimately develop and explore their own research questions in the field of gender on film.

Course Objective
At the end of this course, students will:

- Have knowledge of a wide range of theoretical arguments regarding gender and gender on film;
- Be exposed to diverse examples of genders and various ways they are represented on film;
- Be inspired to critically analyze gendered representations in media texts in the world around them.

Required Texts
Course readings are posted on Canvas. You are required to bring all course readings to class on the assigned days. Hardcopies are required.

Antony Easthope, *What a Man’s Gotta Do: The Masculine Myth in Popular Culture* (New York and London: Routledge, 1986 or 1990). This book is available at the bookstore, but cheaper used copies can be found online.

Films listed in the syllabus are required texts. If you miss in-class screenings, you are responsible for finding and viewing the films on your own. Most films are available on DVD at the UO Main Library.

Note on film content: Course films may contain content that is objectionable to some viewers. Exposure to all types of film content is an important part of the course and diverse material will be used to generate educational discussions. If you foresee problems with viewing required course materials, discuss this with me in advance.

Instructor-Student Communication
I encourage students to visit my office hours. I look forward to conversations with students and students regularly find that such one-on-one conversations enhance learning and improve course performance.
**Email Policy:** I am available via email to answer occasional, brief questions. Larger questions or concerns should be brought to office hours for more thorough discussion. Email communications must be polite and professional. Unprofessionally addressed emails will not be answered. Whenever possible I will respond to student emails in two working days, not including weekends or evenings. I usually check my email once per day during the week and once on weekends, so leave plenty of time for specific requests. Common explanations of absences will be noted, but will not receive individual replies. Questions that are answered in the syllabus will not receive an individual reply. I will not send grades via email. I will not accept assignments via email.

**Technology Policy:** All electronic devices must be silenced and stored out of sight before the start of class unless explicitly directed to be used for class activities. Cell phone use during class will result in a zero participation grade for the day, recorded by the student.

**Attendance Policy:** This is a discussion-based course. Your participation grade depends on your active attention in class, which you will record on the Participation Tracker. You must be in class to participate. In the case of an occasional absence, you are welcome to email me and I will make a note in my records, but do not expect a personalized reply. You are responsible for obtaining the material covered in class from other students or you may come to my office hours to review missed material. There are no make-up opportunities for class participation. I rarely post lecture slides and do not provide study guides. It is in your best interest to attend class. In the case of an emergency or extended illness, contact me as soon as possible and we may arrange special accommodations. Greater than five absences without prior arrangements will result in a failing grade.

**English Department Assessment Procedure, Desired Learning Outcomes**
1. Read literary and cultural texts with discernment and comprehension and with an understanding of their conventions;
2. Draw on relevant cultural and/or historical information to situate texts within their cultural, political, and historical contexts;
3. Perform critical, formal analyses of literary, cinematic, and other cultural texts;
4. Write focused, analytical essays in clear, grammatical prose;
5. Employ logic, creativity, and interpretive skills to produce original, persuasive arguments;
6. Employ primary and/or secondary sources, with proper acknowledgment and citation, as they contribute to a critical essay’s thesis.

**Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**
Plagiarism is illegal, unethical, and will result in disciplinary action. Never present another person’s work as your own. Do not turn in work prepared for other courses. Students are responsible for correctly documenting and citing all sources – including books, internet sources, films, and interviews – referenced for any assignment, accurately following an accepted writing style, such as MLA or Chicago. Academic fraud of any type is reported to the Dean of Students who enforces appropriate consequences through the process detailed by Student Conduct and Community Standards. Any student who plagiarizes or cheats on any course assignment faces penalties, including an F on the assignment and in the course. If I suspect plagiarism or cheating I am required to and will report the incident in writing to the student, the department, and the dean, who may assign additional penalties. Details: [http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards.aspx](http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards.aspx)

**Accommodations for students with disabilities:**
If you have a registered disability that may impact your work in this course, please contact me in the first week of the term. We will work together with the Accessible Education Center to make necessary arrangements to ensure your full access to course material and assignments. Details: [http://aec.uoregon.edu/](http://aec.uoregon.edu/) Or contact AEC directly in 164 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or disabsrv@uoregon.edu.
Assignments and Grading

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<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Your grade (out of 4.0)</th>
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<tr>
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Total = __________ (out of 4.0)

Assignments and exams will be graded on the 4.0 grading scale as follows: A (4.0), B (3.0), C (2.0), D (1.0), F (0). A “C” grade is given to average work that meets the basic requirements of the assignment. A “B” grade is given to work that meets basic requirements and demonstrates comprehensive understanding of course material. An “A” grade is given to work that meets basic requirements, demonstrates exceptional understanding of course material, and demonstrates original insight on course concepts. + and – grades are given at .33 intervals.

All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date listed in the syllabus. Each M/W/H day late results in a 1 point deduction from the assignment grade. In-class assignments and exams will only be administered on the day listed in the syllabus. Make-up exams will only be arranged in exceptional circumstances with sufficient advanced notice. Not attending class on an exam day, with no prior communication and arrangement of alternatives, results in an automatic 0 for the exam.

How to Read and Prepare Assigned Readings for Class

You are expected to complete every reading and film viewing assignment on the syllabus prior to the class day on which it is scheduled. While occasional sessions will include a lecture format, most classes will feature group discussion. Therefore it is crucial that you read each assignment carefully. To do this, read with a pen and take marginal notes, especially marking crucial arguments and confusing passages. Before you come into class each day, be sure you can explain each reading’s main argument, and have one or two supporting points prepared from both the reading and the screening. This will also make preparing written assignments and studying for exams much easier, as you will have a body of notes and summaries to help you study.

The university’s expected workload outside of class is two hours for every course credit hour. For this four credit hour course, the expectation is eight hours of outside work per week, including reading, preparing readings, completing assignments, and preparing for exams.

Outside Event Reflection – Assignment Details

Choose one event – lecture, film screening, art exhibit – on campus or in the community that relates to our course topic. Attend the event and write up a two page (double-spaced) reflection. Briefly summarize the event, its setting and participants, and content. Then reflect on how the event relates to course material or concepts. Specifically answer the question: What did you learn from the event that you noticed because of the ideas in your mind from this course? Your write up is due in hardcopy to me two weeks from the date of the event; the final date for submission is the start of our final exam time slot. Browse campus calendars, departmental flyers, community groups, and similar forums for event announcements. You may share event information on our Canvas site as you find it for the benefit of other students.
Course Schedule

**Question 1: How does popular American cinema gender white men’s and women’s bodies?**

**Mon, Apr 1**  Introductions; Course Overview

In class:
*Gilda* (Charles Vidor, USA, 1946); 110 min. [finish Wednesday]


**Mon, Apr 8**  Bring an example of the male gaze you encountered in the past week

Freud, “Fetishism,” 1927; 351-357.

In class: Student examples

**Question 2: Can/How can cinema represent feminine subjectivity without the male gaze?**

**Wed, Apr 10**  Deren, “Cinema as an Art Form,” 19-33.

In class:
*Riddles of the Sphinx* (Laura Mulvey and Peter Wollen, UK, 1977); 92 min.; selections.
*Meshes of the Afternoon* (Maya Deren and Alexander Hammid, USA, 1943); 14 min.
*Chocolat* (Claire Denis, France/Cameroon, 1988); 105 min; selections.

**Mon, Apr 15**  Paper #1 Due: Analyze the male gaze in a mainstream media object (3-4 pages)


In class:
*Wonder Woman* (Patty Jenkins, USA, 2017); 141 min.; selections.
*Justice League* (Zack Snyder, USA, 2017); 120 min.; selections.

**Question 3: Can/How can cinema construct a critical black feminist gaze?**


In class:
*Illusions* (Julie Dash, USA, 1982); 34 min.
*Hidden Figures* (Theodore Melfi, USA, 2016); 127 min. [Finish Monday]


In class:
“Formation” (Beyoncé, dir. Melina Matsoukas, USA, 2016); 5 min.
“Anaconda” (Nicki Minaj, dir. Colin Tilley, USA, 2014); 5 min.

**Question 4: Can/How can cinema facilitate a return gaze from indigenous feminine subjectivity?**


In class:
*Nice Coloured Girls* (Tracey Moffatt, Australia, 1987); 16 min.
*These Hands* (Flora M’mbugu-Schelling, Tanzania, 1992); 46 min.


In class:
*Rhymes for Young Ghouls* (Jeff Barnaby, Canada/ Mi’kmaq Nation, 2013); 88 min.

Mon, May 6  Exam 1, in class (1 hour): Answer course question 2, 3, or 4

In class:
*Kiki* (Sara Jordenö, USA, 2017; 96 min. [Finish Wednesday]

**Question 5: Can/How can cinema represent marginalized genders?**


In class:
*Paris is Burning* (Jennie Livingston, USA, 1991); 78 min; selections.

Mon, May 13  **Draft Questions Due**

In class:
*Ma vie en rose* (Alain Berliner, Belgium/France, 1997); 89 min.


In class:
*Boys Don’t Cry* (Kimberly Peirce, USA, 1999); 118 min.; selections.
*Southern Comfort* (Kate Davis, USA, 2001); 90 min.; selections.
Mon, May 20   Green, Review of *Tangerine*, 2016.

In class:
*Tangerine* (Sean Baker, USA, 2015); 88 min.

**Question 6: Can/How can cinema illuminate the nature of unmarked genders?**


In class: TBA

Mon, May 27   MEMORIAL DAY – NO CLASS


Mon, Jun 3    In class:
*Get Out* (Jordan Peele, US, 2017); 114 min.

Wed, Jun 5    Wrap up; discuss exam; share questions and findings

Fri, Jun 7    Paper #2 Due by Noon to 329 PLC

Mon, Jun 10   Exam 2 at 10:15 AM: Answer course question 5 or 6