DEPARTMENT: Community and Social Justice Studies (CSJS)		
INSTRUCTOR: **Vidya Kalaramadam Ph. D** **Associate Professor** **Email: kalaramadams@wpunj.edu** **(I am available on email/zoom)**	**Chair:** **Prof. Djanna Hill** **Email: hilld@wpunj.edu** **Office: Atrium 108** **Ph: 973-720-2260**	**Administrative Asst:** **Ms. Mayra Soto** **Email: SotoMa@wpunj.edu** **Office: Atrium 113.** **Ph: (973) 720-3027**

Description of Course: This course will examine gendered icons, sexualized images, and queer bodies in a variety of contexts, focusing on popular culture and media representations. The course will explore the relationship between media icons, images, representations, and ideas about gender/women/sexuality/queerness/ability in a racialized and classed society and the different perspectives to challenge dominant social norms. Readings will focus on authorship, spectatorship, production, and media content taken from feminist film theory, queer theory, cultural studies, digital media studies, and game studies. As popular culture has also been a site of political and social struggles for cultural expression and assertion of identities, this course will engage with the rapidly changing media landscape and ways to be critical consumers of popular culture.

Required Texts: None. All readings available on WWW/Blackboard (BB)/library database.

Course Objectives: The course will

a) Understand key theories and methods of studying media icons, images and representations in their cultural, historical, and political contexts.
b) Analyze the intersections of gender and sexuality in the media with categories such as race, class, ability and nation to create dominant ideologies

c) Critically evaluate the connections between media content creators (media concentration) and their emerging power over consumers.

d) Investigate the technologies of representation and commodification that characterize the production of media(ted) icons/images and representations of diverse groups.

e) Enable crafting and communication of ideas orally and visually through creative projects

Student Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to

a) Develop literacy skills to examine media icons, images, and representations, their diversity and power in cultural, historical, and political contexts

b) Engage with cross disciplinary studies to critically analyze the intersections of gender and sexuality in the media with race, class, ability, and nation

c) Evaluate the role of a critical consumer of media in an information age against powerful media content creators.

d) Demonstrate an understanding of technologies of representation and commodification to unravel power and identity formation

e) Display information and analytical competence by communicating with clarity and fluency

COURSE REQUIREMENTS**:**

✓ *Class format:* The course is delivered via Blackboard, which is your online learning community, where you are expected to interact with your classmates and instructor. You will be able to access the learning materials, syllabus, discussion boards, submit assignments, and participate in online discussions and activities. An online course will require as much time in preparation and participation as a regular classroom course. As in any other course, you must 'attend' class regularly by logging onto Blackboard; you will not be able to make up weeks in which you have been absent. It is your responsibility to check your WPUNJ email account and blackboard (BB). If you need help with blackboard, please contact the blackboard helpdesk ASAP to schedule a tutoring session: https://itwiki.wpunj.edu/index.php/Category:Blackboard_-_Students (For best results you should be using the Chrome web browser: https://google.com/chrome/ to access BB)

- ✓ **Participation and assignments:** You are expected to read the assigned readings and participate in the online discussions. Based on your reading, you will need to post your response on the "discussion board" (**DB**) or in "**assignments**" on BB by the due date.
- ✓ **Communication**: All communication will be sent on email and messages will only be sent to your wpunj.edu account. Grades will be upgraded on blackboard periodically. It is your responsibility to check your WPUNJ email account and blackboard (BB).
  - o **Gender-Inclusive/Non-Sexist Language for in class participation and "Netiquette":** To enable an inclusive environment and enrich discussion and reflection the class will make every effort to use gender-inclusive and non-sexist language i.e words that affirm and respect how people describe, express, and experience their gender like individuals whose identities (including trans, intersex, and genderqueer) may not fit the gender binary, and/or who may not identify with the sex they were assigned at birth. Misgendering is disrespectful and dismissive. Students may share their preferred pronouns (he/she/ze/they) and names, and these gender identities and gender expressions will be honoured.

    If you don't know someone's gender or when talking about a group, use gender-neutral language.

    | ~~mankind~~ | humankind |
    | ~~chairman~~ | chair |
    | ~~congressman~~ | legislator |
    | ~~businessman~~ | representative |
    | ~~policeman~~ | police officer |
    | ~~landlord~~ | owner |
    | ~~boyfriend/girlfriend~~ | partner |
    | ~~salesman~~ | salesperson |
    | ~~manpower~~ | workforce |
    | ~~maiden name~~ | family name |
    | ~~fireman~~ | firefighter |
    | ~~husband/wife~~ | spouse |

    UN WOMEN
- ✓ **Class policy**:
  - o **Assignments**: Based on your reading, you will need to respond on the "discussion board" (DB) or in "assignments" on BB by the due date. Each assg will be accompanied with instructions on expectations and grading rubric. Online discussion boards and assignments will be closed for a particular response thread at midnight on the day it is due. Your first post will be graded as your assignment. Hence do not post multiple times different parts of the assignment. Also emailing me your response after it is due will be considered a late assignment. You are free to raise questions, pose queries, post additional responses, etc. When you respond to your classmates highlight the post you are referring to and follow rules of classroom etiquette /online netiquette and propriety.
  - o **Submissions:** All submissions (discussion posts/assignments) will be in 12-point font and within the word limit described in the assignment. Organize them for coherency, flow, and fullness. Edit

your responses for flow and grammar before submission. Your response will engage with the readings which are from the text, journal articles, films, or other scholarly sources (use library e-journals) and all evidence, counter evidence, arguments, ideas should be cited appropriately (<u>must draw from scholarly sources</u>). For citations use in-text parenthetic notes, footnotes, or endnotes. A bibliography/list of references should be placed at the end of your paper. You can follow any citation system and format (from your major discipline). For those of you who do not have one, here is a suggested **citation style**. Check the APA style of citation at http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/instruct/guides/apastyle.pdf Do not cite more than 2 sentences at any time directly from the text. Try to summarize or paraphrase the idea from the text. If needed, use the Writing Center resources.

- o *Links on writing*: http://webster.commnet.edu/apa/; http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/PlanResearchPaper.html

✓ *Grade Rationale*: Assignments will be graded on the following rationale

Responses may be graded for	10 points	15 points
Not posting or late assignment	0-4	0-7
Response has not engaged with the discussion material	5-7	8-10
Responses have engaged with readings, sources, is analytical, & edited	8 -10	11 -15
o Assignments will have points distributed among the following **criteria**: structure (argument, organization, citation), analysis (engagement with readings, concepts referred, sources of evidence), and style (clarity, spelling/grammar). **Grading Scale** (%): A (93-100), A- (90-92), B+ (87-89), B (83-86), B- (80-82), C+ (77-79), C (73-76), C- (70-72), D (60-69), F (0-59)		

✓ *Academic Integrity, Writing & Reading*:
- o Academic integrity is essential to pass this class. Students who lend their work to others to submit as their own, fabricate information, or pass off as their own work the words and ideas of another will fail this course. Please familiarize with the WPU Academic Integrity Policy available from the Centre for Teaching Excellence at www.wpunj.edu/academics/cte
- o Follow the rules of plagiarism for all WPUNJ students: "Plagiarism is the copying from a book, article, notebook, video, or other source material, whether published or unpublished, without proper credit

through the use of quotation marks, footnotes, and other customary means of identifying sources, or passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writings, programs, and experiments of another, whether such actions are intentional or unintentional. Plagiarism also includes submitting, without the consent of the professor, an assignment already tendered for academic credit in another course" (http://www.wpunj.edu/cte/wpu-academic-integrity-policy.dot)

o When you quote or draw your ideas from another person's work, you must cite that source. For citations use in-text parenthetic notes, footnotes, or endnotes. A bibliography/list of references should be placed at the end of your paper. You can follow any citation system and format (from your major discipline). For those of you who do not have one, here is a suggested **citation style**. Check the APA style of citation at http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/instruct/guides/apastyle.pdf

o Do not cite more than 2 sentences at any time directly from the text. Try to summarize or paraphrase the idea from the text. If needed, use the Writing Center resources.

o *Links on writing*:
http://webster.commnet.edu/apa/; http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/PlanResearchPaper.html

o Reading Tips and Suggested Note-Taking Techniques
- What is the main idea of the reading(s)?
- How do(es) the reading(s) relate to the larger issue/class topic? What is the relevance of this article/essay/chapter?
- How do the readings relate to each other?
- How do the readings relate to previous reading and topics we have covered?
- SUGGESTION: take notes when you read and follow the logic and nature of evidence. It may be useful to summarize an article within 1/10th of its length. Or try to summarize each paragraph with one sentence/point. Try this!

✓ *Academic support and services:* **https://www.wpunj.edu/academicsupport/**

Academic Success Center https://www.wpunj.edu/academics/asc/index.html Cheng Library Room 111B	One-on-one & group style tutoring in various subjects

Career Development Center https://www.wpunj.edu/career-center/index.html Student Center Room 301 Main Office (973)720-3291	Offers career counseling, job, internship and graduate school preparation.
Science Enrichment Center (SEC) https://www.wpunj.edu/sec/index.html Science Hall East, Room 3023	Provides face-to-face study groups and online support services for subject matter within the sciences and some math courses.
The Writing Center www.wpunj.edu/writing-center/ Preakness Hall, Room 124	One-on-one tutoring (face-to-face or online) for any WPU student working on any kind of writing in any stage of development. Students can make an appointment at https://wpunj.mywconline.com

✓ *Health and Safety Support Services:*

WPU Title IX Coordinator tindallr@wpunj.edu College Hall, Room 120. Regina Tindall (973)720-2389	Title IX Coordinator at WPU is responsible for ensuring the University's compliance with Title IX and overseeing and/or investigating complaints of sexual violence, dating/domestic violence, stalking, harassment, discrimination, and other sex-based complaints involving students and University employees and alleged to have taken place on campus or at a University-sponsored event
Campus Safety http://www.wpunj.edu/police/ Entry #1, 1st Building on the left WPU Police Department (973)720-2200. To report an incident call 973-720-2301.	If you are experiencing an emergency, dial 911 from any campus phone or use the Emergency Bluelight telephones locate

Campus Victim Services Coordinator (CVSC) bivaletzt@wpunj.edu Student Center, Room 313 Theresa A. Bivaletz (973)720-2578	The office of Campus Victim Services responds to the impact of dating and domestic violence, stalking, and sexual violence through direct service, training, education, and awareness-raising https://www.wpunj.edu/womens-center/campus-victim-services/.
Women's Center. Student Center, Room 313 Theresa A. Bivaletz bivaletzt@wpunj.edu (973)720-2578	Raises awareness, provides education and responds to impacts of dating & domestic violence, stalking and sexual violence.
Counseling, Health, & Wellness Center http://www.wpunj.edu/health-wellness/ Overlook South, 1st Floor (973)720-2257 or (973)720-2360 Offers primary care and personal counseling (https://www.wpunj.edu/health-wellness/counseling/).	The Counseling, Health, & Wellness Center offers mental health services like facilitating students' personal, social, and intellectual growth, as well as adjustment to and engagement within the university community, assisting with identifying and working through personal barriers, normal developmental issues and stressors, and clinical problems which could impede academic success. The Counseling Center is staffed with psychologists, social workers, a psychiatrist consultant, and supervised graduate students.
Physical Health https://www.wpunj.edu/health-wellness/index.html.	The Health and Wellness Center staff members provide care for students who are ill or injured. Through health-related counseling and education, they support students' efforts to maintain their physical and emotional well-being and make informed decisions that promote personal wellness and effect life-long health. The Health and Wellness office is staffed by advanced practice nurses (nationally certified nurse practitioners), registered nurses, medical assistants, and a physician consultant.
Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and HIV Disease	The Counseling, Health and Wellness Center offers free CONFIDENTIAL testing to all students. Tests are done by

http://www.wpunj.edu/health-wellness/	appointment only. Visit: https://www.wpunj.edu/health-wellness/resources-for-students/HIVBrochure.pdf. For comprehensive information concerning the WPU policy concerning AIDS & HIV disease, Visit: https://www.wpunj.edu/contentAsset/raw-data/372814/fileAsset
The Pioneer Pantry: https://www.wpunj.edu/enrolled/student-development/Pioneer-pantry	The Pioneer Pantry is a resource for all currently enrolled WPU students. We understand it is important to ensure that all students have access to nutritional and basic necessities.
Information for Undocumented Students: https://www.wpunj.edu/enrolled/student-development/undocumented-students/	WPU supports undocumented students in their pursuit of higher education and strives to provide safe environments and necessary resources to enable undocumented students to achieve academic success

Important dates for winter 2022: https://www.wpunj.edu/registrar/calendars/

Course schedule

Date	Topics/ Readings (TBD)	Tasks
Jan 3rd	UNDERSTANDING FRAMEWORKS/PERSPECTIVES/CONCEPTS: Gender, sex, sexuality, race, class, ability	
Jan 4th	Gender and sexuality in popular culture	**Assg 1**
Jan 5th	Media Representations of Gender and Sexuality	
Jan 6th	Media Representations of Gender and Sexuality	
Jan 7th	Discourse analysis of popular culture and media	
Jan 8th	Discourse analysis of popular culture and media	**Assg 2**

Jan 9th	BODIES, ICONS, IDENTITIES, AND REPRESENTATIONS: Construction of gendered/sexualized norms and heteronormative bodies	
Jan 10th	Mediated ideologies of race and class	
Jan 11th	Cultural representations of LGBTQI+ identities	**Assg 3**
Jan 12th	Exclusion of ableism and indigeneity	
Jan 13th	Building the nation through xenophobia	
Jan 14th	Culture industries - emerging markets	**Assg 4**
Jan 15th	Ownership – media concentration	
Jan 16th	Alternate/digital forms of media	
Jan 17th	Alternate/digital forms of media	
Jan 18th	Social media	**Assg 5**
Jan 19th	Social media	
Jan 20th	Online activism for social justice and change	
Jan 21st	Online activism for social justice and change	**Assg 6**