Course description

This course will examine both the ways in which classic narrative films construct "woman", and some of the strategies by which contemporary women directors have attempted to dislocate or dissolve that construction. Particular attention will be paid to the representation of the female body, the orchestration of the female voice and the structuring of female desire. We will also look closely at the female spectator projected by dominant cinema, and at the notion of female "authorship". Filmmakers will range from Hitchcock, Von Sternberg and Ophuls to Duras, Ottinger and Gruben. Theoreticians will include Mulvey, Rose, Heath, Kuhn, de Lauretis, Doane and Freud.

Course requirements:

Students will be expected to view one feature-length film and to read an average of 50-75 pages per week; to participate in seminar discussions; and to write 3 papers. Seminar participation will determine 25% of the grade and each paper an additional 25%.

Required Texts:

Kuhn, Annette, Pictures of Women
de Lauretis, Teresa, Alice Doesn't
Doane, Mellencamp and Williams, eds., Revision
Freud, Sigmund, Sexuality and the Psychology of Love
Dora

Recommended Reading:

Rose, Jackie, Feminine Sexuality

In addition, a xerox packet will be made available to students at cost.

NOTE: Students will have a choice of two screenings a week.

Prerequisite:

Nine credits including W.S. 100-4 and any two 200 W.S. courses, or permission of the instructor.