WOMEN'S STUDIES 205-3
WOMEN AND POPULAR CULTURE

This course explores the pervasive messages of popular culture as they affect
the perception of women/women's self-perception. Because they constitute
so much of our cultural environment, our ability to note them is continually
eroded and along with that, any opportunity for change. The main materials
we will explore are "women's magazines" and Hollywood movies, but a wide
range of genres will be considered, including the Gothic novel, Harlequin
romances, soap opera and pop music. The emphasis is on learning to see anew,
a critically aware vision. Where appropriate, however, alternate feminist
modes will be contrasted with dominant forms and mainstream representations.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Coward, Rosalind  Female Desires: How They are Sought, Bought
and Packaged

Modleski, Tania  Loving With a Vengeance: Mass-Produced Fantasies
for Women

Reading packet, available at cost from the Women's Studies office.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Class participation: 30%
Midterm 25%
Final paper 45%