WOMEN'S STUDIES DEPARTMENT

FALL 1992
HARBOUR CENTRE

Screenings/Seminars Tues: 12:00 16:50

W.S. 312-5/823-5

WOMEN AND FILM: FILMS AND THEORIES

The evolution of feminist film theory reflects questions that have engaged the feminist movement as a whole. Problems such as the relevance of Freudian theory, the debate over the definition of "feminine vision" versus the problem of essentiality, issues such as the notion of public and private space, pornography, etc. have been incorporated into the theories and practices of feminist film culture. This course will show how these questions were addressed by feminist filmmakers and critics at the same time as it surveys the evolution of feminist film theory and engages in its debates. Films that have been pivotal to feminist film theory will complement the seminar discussions.

REQUIRED READING

Several copies of a binder of articles will be available on reserve in the library and/or be available for purchase at cost.

Note: Readings will average from 40 to 50 pages per week.

RECOMMENDED READING

Issues of Women and Film & Camera Obscura.
de Lauretis, Teresa, Technologies of Gender.
Doane, M., Mellencamp, P., & Williams, L. (eds) Revision: Essays in Feminist Film Criticism.
Gledhill, Christine, (ed). Home is where the Heart is: Studies in Melodrama and the Women’s Film.
Haskell, Molly, From Reverence to Rape.
Kuhn, Annette, Women’s Pictures: Feminism and Cinema.
Penley, Constance, (ed). Feminism and Film Theory.

ASSIGNMENTS

55% Journal
   - an academic journal composed of weekly reflections inspired by the films viewed in class as they relate to the reading or reflections on the readings themselves (journal entries will be two or three typed
pages each week and presented in three installments during the term)

30% Seminar Presentation
- an oral (20-30 min.) research presentation based on the week’s readings and/or topics of discussion to be chosen in conjunction with the instructor and completed by one or two students per topic

15% Seminar Participation
- the grade for this aspect will be based on attendance in class and at course screenings (two per week), and on the quality of the student’s contribution to class discussions

Graduates

In addition to the above assignments, graduates will be asked to do additional readings, write slightly longer journal entries (3-4 pages per week), as well as to lead the class in a discussion of one week’s readings (date to be chosen in consultation with the instructor).

Students may apply to the School for Contemporary Arts to have this course designated as credit toward their Film Major, Film Concentration or FPA Major

Students may apply to the Communication Department to have this course designated as credit toward the Communication Major requirements.

Prerequisite: 9 credit hours in Women’s Studies including W.S. 100