WOMEN'S STUDIES DEPARTMENT

FALL, 1993

LYNNE HISSEY
Lec: Thursday, 18:30-20:20
Tut: Thursday, 20:30-21:20
(Harbour Centre)

W.S. 301-3 WOMEN AND THE MEDIA
FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES ON THE MEDIA: MODERNISM VS. POSTMODERNISM

Recently feminists media criticism has divided along two apparently different lines: "modernist" vs. "postmodernist" positions. As well as offering seemingly disparate accounts of media representations and their consumption, these positions have engaged in "lively" (sometimes acrimonious) debates with each other over that constitutes an appropriate feminist theory of the media and media products.

This course aims to outline these competing perspectives and to assess their relative usefulness in furthering the feminist project of emancipation. We will look at a variety of media, with a particular focus on popular film and television.

READINGS:

Coward, Rosalind: Female Desires: How they are Sought, Bought and Packaged.
Modleski, Tania: Feminism Without Women: Culture and Criticism in a "Postfeminist" Age.
Wolf, Naomi: The Beauty Myth.

Students will also be asked to read several articles on Reserve in the Library.

REQUIREMENTS:

Seminar Presentation 10%
Seminar Participation 15%
Mid-term exam (in-class) 25%
Final Paper 50%

This course may be applied to the Certificate in Liberal Arts.

Students may apply to the Communication Department to have this course designated as 3 credits toward their upper division requirements.