The purpose of this course is to overview representations of women in popular culture and to examine a variety of feminist responses to those representations. Beginning with an overview of what constitutes popular culture and some of the images of women that saturate it -- as well, perhaps, as a look at two of the women whose images most saturate the media, Madonna and the Princess of Wales -- there will be a systematic attempt to answer questions such as "to what uses do the media put images of women" and "culture by whom, culture for whom". We will explore the relationship between mass images and feminist critiques of them in order to expand and revise our available readings of these cultural productions.

Topics to be covered will include:
- Film -- fatal distractions; or, what are women's basic instincts?
- Humor -- was it funny for you (women cartoonists)
- Advertising -- I'll buy that if that nice man in the white coat tells me to (and what does 2 CK really mean)
- Fashion -- was the bubble skirt really a conspiracy?
- Television -- why sitcoms don't like mothers and other mysteries
- Mass market paperbacks -- is too much romance bad for you? and can a girl detective get by on feminine intuition?

Required Reading

Williamson, Judith, *Consuming Passions: The Dynamics of Popular Culture*. Collier Macmillan
Smith, Joan, *Misogynies*, Faber Press
hooks, bell, *Black Looks: Race and Representation*. Toronto, Between the Lines, 1992
A reading package will be available to students

Course Requirements
- class participation: 10%
- in-class presentation (5 pp): 25%
- term paper (10 pp.): 35%
- final exam: 30%

THIS COURSE MAY BE APPLIED TO THE CERTIFICATE IN LIBERAL ARTS.

TUTORIALS WILL BE HELD DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES.