WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM
SUMMER 1993

JACQUELINE LEVITIN
Screenings/Seminars: W 10:00-12:20 Harbor Centre
W 12:30-14:50 Harbor Centre

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:


Copies of additional 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 reflections on the readings and on the films viewed in class as they relate to the readings (weekly entries, two or three typed pages each, presented in three installments during the term).

30% Seminar Presentation
- an oral (20-30 min.) research presentation based on the week's 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 and on the quality of the student’s contribution to class discussions.

Graduates:

In addition to the above assignments, graduates will be asked to write slightly longer journal entries (3-4 pages per week), to lead the class in a discussion of one week’s readings (date to be chosen in consultation with the instructor), and to submit a term paper (10-15 pages) on a topic approved by 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.

Prerequisites: 9 credit hours in Women's Studies including W.S. 100.

Prerequisite: 60 credit hours or W.S. 100