Course Description:
The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the various feminist approaches to studying television, specifically representation, genre, fans and audiences. In the first half of the course, we will explore the ways in which television constructs woman as image, focusing on issues such as race and sexuality, as well as ‘feminine genres’ like soap operas. Special attention will also be paid to the notion of ‘postfeminism’ and ‘girl power’ as expressed in popular TV shows like *Sex and the City* and *The Powerpuff Girls*. The second part of the course will move towards a consideration of the social contexts of women’s television viewing, signaling a more general move in feminist television studies away from abstract speculation towards the concrete everyday practices of female audiences. By the end of this course, students will be able to: articulate a feminist critique of television; identify the different approaches used by feminist television critics; develop and/or improve their analytical and presentation skills.

Students are encouraged to critically reflect upon their own relationship to television as a cultural medium both in class and in their writing assignments.

Class time will consist of a combination of lecture, screenings, presentations and class discussion. Students are expected to do their weekly readings and come to class prepared to contribute to class discussions.

Course Texts:

Small Custom Courseware available at the bookstore.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Journal/Reading Responses (2 pages) 5 x 5% = 25%

Paper Proposal and Annotated Bibliography 10%
*Students must prepare a proposal outlining their research topic for the final paper. A list of acceptable topics will be handed out in class prior to the due date.

Final Research Paper (14-15 pages) 30%
*Students must research and write a final paper which builds upon their paper proposal. Students must adhere to the proposal – final papers which diverge significantly from the proposal will be penalized.

Oral Presentation 20%
*Students will be responsible for leading class discussion each week. Students will be graded on their creativity, ability to synthesize course materials, and their ability to generate discussion. Students will sign up on the first day of class.

Attendance and Participation 15%

Prerequisites: 6 credits in Women’s Studies including WS 101 and/or WS 102

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THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN’S STUDIES ENCOURAGES CLARITY OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION AND GOOD WRITING. STUDENTS WILL BE EVALUATED ON THESE SKILLS IN ALL COURSES GIVEN BY THE DEPARTMENT.