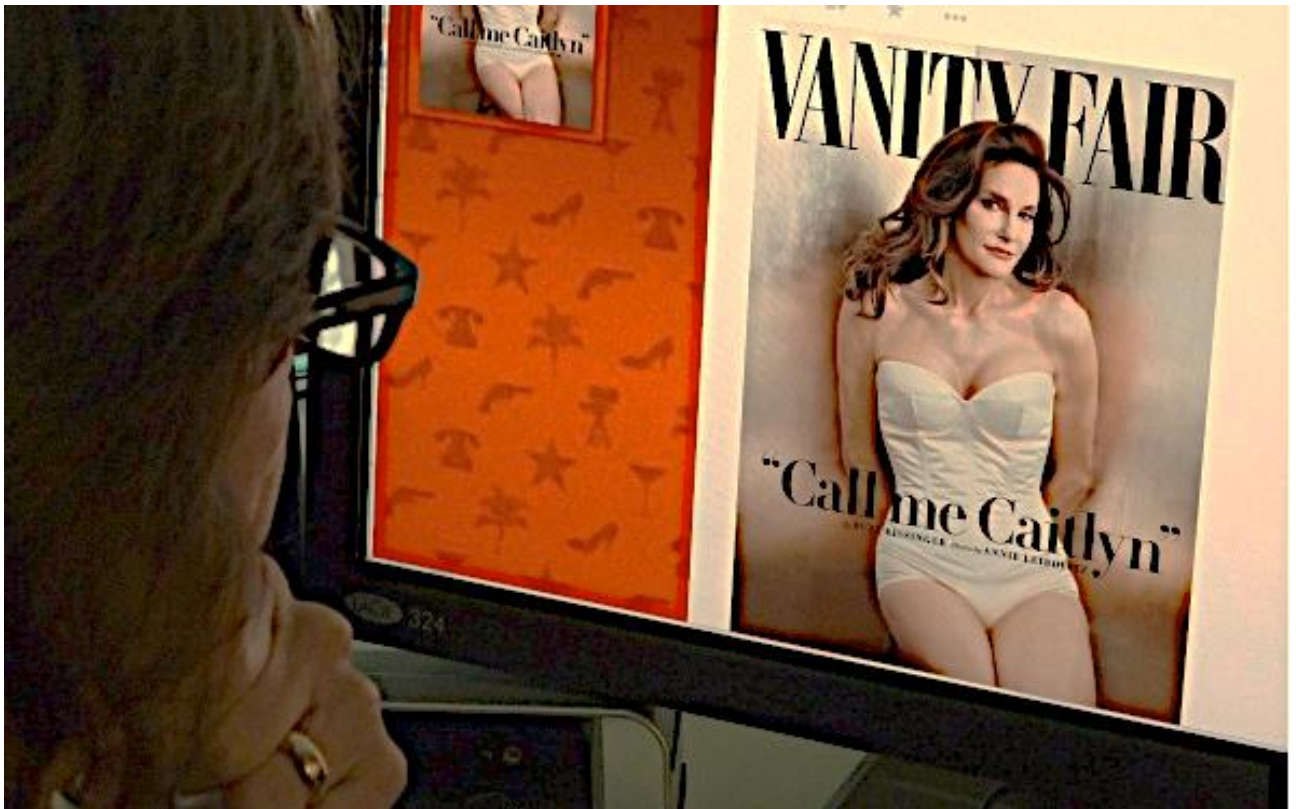


MDIA 306 Media, Gender and Sexuality

Trimester 2 2015

13 July to 15 November 2015

20 Points



Picture Source: W.W "The Caitlyn Jenner Moment" *The Economist*. 9 Jun 2015. Web 15 Jun 2015.

IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates: 13 July to 16 October 2015

Mid-trimester break: 24 August to 6 September 2015

Last assessment item due: 15 October 2015

Withdrawal dates:

Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Wednesday 10.00am-11.50am Cotton COLT122

Tutorials

Tutorials begin in WEEK 2. Please register for tutorials via the MDIA 306 site on Blackboard: go to "Tutorial Instructions" and follow the instructions carefully. Remember to record your tutorial time, day and room for future reference.

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Course Coordinator: Dr Anita Brady
Email: anita.brady@vuw.ac.nz
Phone: 04 463 6853
Room: 001, 81 Fairlie Terrace
Office Hours: Thursday 2.00-4.00pm

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All additional information will be announced in lectures and tutorials, and made available on the MDIA 306 Blackboard site.

Occasionally emails are sent to the MDIA 306 class via Blackboard. Blackboard automatically uses Victoria email addresses. If you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

PRESCRIPTION

This course examines the representations, contexts, and politics of gender, sexuality and the media. By interrogating the discourses of gender and sexuality as they are 'mediated' in a variety of forms (television, film, popular music, video games, advertising), we will examine the construction and constitution of femininity, masculinity, heterosexuality, and lesbian/gay/queer identities.

COURSE CONTENT

MDIA 306 provides an introduction to theories of subjectivity, gender and sexuality, and examines the representations of gender and sexuality in the media with a particular emphasis on popular culture. The course is divided into three sections:

- Gendered Subjects (Weeks 1-5)
- Sexual Subjectivity (Weeks 6-9)
- Intersectionality (Weeks 10-12)

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Critically evaluate how gender and sexuality are represented and produced in a range of media texts, formats, genres and industries
2. Summarise, utilise and critique key theoretical perspectives that address issues of gender and sexuality, and the media
3. Evaluate the clarity and structure of a piece of academic work, and integrate critical feedback into their own writing
4. Explain the relationship between gender and sexuality, and other frameworks of identity (e.g. race, class, disability) in media texts, formats, genres or industries.

TEACHING FORMAT

1 x 2-hour lecture per week.

10 x 50-minute tutorial. Tutorials will take place in weeks: 2 to 11. In week 12 there will be extended office hours for individual consultation.

Please Note: Tutorials and lectures are interactive and discussion based. Students must have done that week's required readings in order to participate and to understand what's going on in class. Students are also encouraged to contribute relevant media examples to the course. If you come across something that seems to speak to or exemplify issues we've been discussing please email it to anita.brady@vuw.ac.nz or bring it along to a tutorial.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to obtaining an overall passing grade, in this course you must also complete the following mandatory course requirements in order to pass the course:

- attend at least 8 tutorials in order to discuss, evaluate and utilise theoretical and media texts
- submit assignments 1, 3 and 4 to Turnitin in order to ensure academic integrity of submitted work.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of these mandatory course requirements because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 20-point course is 200 hours over the trimester or 13 hours per teaching week.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1 Assignment 1: Reading Analysis. 1,300-1,500 words.	25%	1, 2	Due 2pm, Tues 25 Aug in MDIA Drop Slot at 83 Fairlie Terrace. Note: this is during the mid-trimester break
2 Assignment 2: Peer Feedback Essay Introduction Exercise. 300-500 words.	10%	3	Due in tutorials week beginning Monday 14 Sept.
3 Assignment 3: Essay. 2,500-3,000 words	40%	1, 2, 3	Due 2pm, Monday 28 Sept in MDIA Drop Slot at 83 Fairlie Terrace.
4 Assignment 4: Take Home Assignment. 1,300-1,500 words	25%	1, 2, 4	Due 2pm, Thursday 15 Oct in MDIA Drop Slot at 83 Fairlie Terrace.

ASSIGNMENT 1: READING ANALYSIS

Choose one Required Reading from Weeks 1-5, and one Media Commentary from any of those provided in “Media Commentaries” folders on Blackboard each week (this can be from any week).

Write a short essay that utilises your chosen Required Reading to critically reflect on your chosen Media Commentary.

Some questions you may wish to consider (do not try to answer all of these questions!):

- How might the thesis of the Required Reading, or some other aspect of the author’s argument, further develop/contribute to/complicate the arguments of the Media Commentary?
- How does the Media Commentary exemplify or complicate one or more key arguments of the Required Reading?

Guidelines

- This assignment is asking you to discuss the relationship between your chosen reading and commentary – do not simply summarise teaching reading.
- You do not need to cover every aspect of either the Media Commentary or the Required Reading (you cannot do this within the word limit).
- You can use any combination of Media Commentary and Required Reading – they do not need to be from the same week. Your Required Reading must be from Weeks 1-5, your Media Commentary can be from any week.
- In any Media Studies course you are encouraged to have your academic reading inform your own media usage. If you have come across a Media Commentary through your own media use that you would like to write about instead of the ones provided, you may well be allowed to do so but you **must** check with Anita first.

- You may refer to more than one Reading (Required and Recommended) and more than one Media Commentary but you must identify one Required Reading and one Media Commentary as the primary focus of your essay.
- There will be tutorial time set aside to discuss this assignment.
- Your assignment must be accompanied by a bibliography **formatted in MLA-style**. This style is set out in the Student Handbook (available on Blackboard).
- You must submit an electronic copy of this assignment to Turnitin before handing in your hard copy to the MDIA Drop Slot, 83 Fairlie Terrace. **You must attach a Turnitin receipt to the hard copy.** Any assignments not submitted to Turnitin will not be marked.

Marking Criteria

- This assignment will be assessed on the following:
 - your ability to utilise academic theory to further develop popular media analysis (and/or vice-versa)
 - your ability to produce a clearly thought out introduction and conclusion
 - your ability to construct an academic argument, and utilise good supporting evidence
 - the quality of your written expression
 - your ability to accurately follow an academic bibliographic style

ASSIGNMENT 2: ESSAY INTRODUCTION FEEDBACK EXERCISE

In Week 8 you must bring 2 copies of a draft of the introductory paragraph to the essay you will submit in Assignment 3. In your tutorial that week you will use that draft in a peer feedback exercise designed to improve the structure of your essay and the clarity of your argument. Full instructions will be given in tutorials.

PLEASE NOTE: If you have any concerns about completing this assignment in class time (e.g. a disability makes it difficult for you to write by hand) please discuss these with Anita as soon as possible so I can ensure you are able to complete the assignment.

Guidelines

- Your grade for this assignment is for participation only. Your tutor will not mark your introduction, or the worksheets you will fill out in the tutorial exercise. However, they will look at both to ensure that you have completed the task(s) set, and can be awarded your 10 marks. **Please note:** If you **complete** both parts of this assignment you will receive 10 marks. This is not a mark out of 10. You will either receive 10 marks for completing the assignment, or 0 marks for not completing it. This means that if you only complete part of it, you will receive 0 marks. No part of your grade will be determined by feedback from your peers.
- In order to complete this assignment and receive your 10 marks you must turn up to your assigned tutorial in Week 8 with 2 anonymous copies of your drafted introduction. Provision will be made for those students who cannot attend their tutorial that week due to **genuinely unforeseen and extenuating circumstances** (as outlined in the "Lateness and Penalties" section of this Course Outline).
- In the tutorial in Week 7, time will be set aside to discuss what makes a good introductory paragraph, and other aspects of this assignment.

- Your introductory paragraph draft must be a genuine draft (we will discuss what this means in Week 7). It cannot be a list of ideas or bullet points.

Marking Criteria

This assignment is participation grade only. In order to receive 10 marks you must submit an introductory paragraph for peer feedback, and complete all parts of the peer feedback exercise in the tutorial.

ASSIGNMENT 3: ESSAY

Choose any media text and discuss the representation and/or production of sexual subjectivity in that media text.

Guidelines

- You must utilise at least 2 reputable **academic** sources, including **at least** one from the Required Readings that you did not discuss in Assignment 1. You cannot repeat material from Assignment 1. The media commentaries contained in the Student Notes are not “peer reviewed” and are **not academic sources**. This does not mean you cannot use them in your essay as media commentaries. We will discuss how you might use these, as well as other types of sources, in class.
- While you are welcome to draw on material from other courses, your essay must engage with theoretical paradigms and media studies frameworks utilised in **this** course.
- There will be tutorial time set aside to discuss this assignment.
- All essays must be accompanied by a bibliography formatted in MLA-style. This style is set out in the Student Handbook (available on Blackboard).
- You must submit an electronic copy of this assignment to Turnitin before handing in your hard copy to the MDIA Drop Slot, 83 Fairlie Terrace. **You must attach a Turnitin receipt to the hard copy.** Any assignments not submitted to Turnitin will not be marked.

Marking Criteria

- This assignment will be assessed on the following:
 - your ability to integrate theory and textual analysis
 - your ability to produce a clearly thought out introduction and conclusion
 - your ability to construct an academic argument, and utilise good supporting evidence
 - the quality of your written expression
 - your ability to accurately follow an academic bibliographic style

There are extensive essay writing guidelines in the SEFTMS Student Handbook. It is strongly recommended that you consult them.

ASSIGNMENT 3: TAKE-HOME ASSIGNMENT

The Take-Home assignment will be distributed at the final lecture. You will be given clear guidelines as to what is expected of you for this piece of assessment.

SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

Work provided for assessment in this course will be checked for academic integrity by Turnitin. Follow the instructions provided in the “Assignments and Turnitin” section of Blackboard.

NOTE: You must submit a hard copy of assignments 1, 3 and 4 as per instructions below. Essays emailed to your tutor or Anita will not be accepted.

Hardcopy assignments are submitted in the drop slot outside the administration office: **83 Fairlie Terrace**. Attach an assignment cover sheet found on Blackboard or outside the administration office. Remember to fill in your tutor’s name. Please do not use plastic folders.

Your marked assignment will be handed back by your tutor in tutorials or during their office hours. Any uncollected assignments can be picked up from the Programme Administrator after the last day of teaching. Assignments will be held in the administration office until the end of the following trimester. You need to show your student identification to collect marked assignment from the administration office.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

Extensions

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. To apply for an extension, email your Course Coordinator before the assignment is due. If granted, your Course Coordinator will inform you of the new due date. Tutors cannot grant extensions. **No assignment with or without an extension will be accepted after Friday 13 November 2015.**

Penalties

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

SET TEXTS

Required Readings will be made available electronically via Blackboard.

RECOMMENDED READING

Reading will be made available electronically via Blackboard.

Please note: There are extra additional readings related to particular topic areas. These may be especially useful in assignments 3 and 4. They can be found in the “Recommended Reading” section on Blackboard.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep’s name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

STUDENT FEEDBACK

Changes to this course are made each year based on developments in the media, and in the academic fields this course pertains to; my experience of running the course, engaging in content-related discussions with students, and marking assignments; formal and informal discussions with colleagues, feedback from student cohorts in the preceding years, and feedback from current students as the course progresses. These changes will be discussed in relation to relevant course content topics throughout the course, and in assignment preparation discussions and exercises in class.

Formal course evaluations for this course were not conducted in 2014 (in line with University requirements). Student feedback via class reps, informal discussions, fast feedback exercises, and teaching evaluations in 2014 did not identify any areas of concern for students. As is the case each year, some readings proved more beneficial to student learning and to contemporary mediascapes than others, and adjustments have been made.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

In week six or seven of the trimester your class representative will be invited to a meeting with the Programme staff. In week five your class representative will ask the class for any feedback on this course to discuss at this meeting.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract

- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz
- School website: www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1 15 July **L1: Introduction: Analysing Gender and Sexuality in the Media**

Week 2 22 July **L2: Contemporary Femininities**

Week 3 29 July **L3: Contemporary Masculinities**

Week 4 5 Aug **L4: Theorising Subjectivity**

Week 5 12 Aug **L5: Transgendered Bodies**

Week 6 19 Aug **L6: Media Representations of Sexual Identity**

Mid Trimester Break: Monday 24 August to Sunday 6 September 2015

Assignment One due 2pm Tuesday 25 August

Week 7 9 Sept **L7: Sexual Subjectivities**

Week 8 16 Sept **L8: The Politics of Queer**
Assignment Two due in tutorials

Week 9 23 Sept **L9: Porn Cultures**

Week 10 30 Sept **L10: Race, Gender and Sexuality**
Assignment Three due 2pm Monday 28 September

Week 11 7 Oct **L11: Disability, Gender and Sexuality**

Week 12 14 Oct **Summary and Class Discussion**
Assignment Four due 2pm Thursday 15 October