

Special Topic in Gender Studies: Gender and Genre in the Cinema
Spring 2018
Tuesday 5th

Instructor: Andrée Lafontaine (andreelafontaine@icloud.com)

Office hour: Tuesday 4th (A518)

1. Course Description: This course examines the “making” and “unmaking” of masculinity and femininity within film genres such as horror, melodrama, film noir and the thriller.

2. Aim: The semester is divided into five modules. Each module typically comprises of a reading and a lecture where specific concepts are explored, a film screening and a class discussion. Through various theoretical perspectives, our goal is to explore representations of gender and sexuality in genre films, as well as their construction and critical deconstruction.

3. Key words: Gender Studies, Film Studies, Media Studies

4. Schedule:

- 1) Intro to this class and basic concepts
- 2) Feminist film criticism and ideological critique
- 3) *Stella Dallas*
- 4) The maternal melodrama
- 5) Power, visual culture and the Noir universe
- 6) *Double Indemnity*
- 7) Femme fatales and saintly mothers
- 8) Her body, himself: shifting identifications
- 9) Primal fears
- 10) Gender performativity and construction
- 11) *Vertigo*
- 12) Hitchcock and the killing of women
- 13) Thinking and Representing Trans-Identity
- 14) *Tangerine*
- 15) Final assessment

5. Evaluations:

- A. Attendance and class participation: 10%
- B. Homeworks (2x20%): 40%
- C. Final paper (due July 24): 50%

6. References: There is no textbook for this class. All reading and viewing materials will be made available in class.