

**City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus**

**offered by School of Creative Media
with effect from Semester A 2024/25**

Part I Course Overview

Course Title:	Gender in Popular Media
Course Code:	SM5326
Course Duration:	One semester
Credit Units:	3
Level:	P5
Medium of Instruction:	English
Medium of Assessment:	English
Prerequisites: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil
Precursors: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil
Equivalent Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil
Exclusive Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

When we look at visual images, moving or not, caught by cameras of any kind, we do not always wonder whether the eyes behind the camera belong to a man or a woman. When the eyes behind the camera belong to us, we do not always consider the images we produce would be better appreciated by male or female spectators. The gender consciousness is something all of us should not overlook, as it is especially of significance for those who study and/or create media art/work. This course explores edge-cutting issues relating to camera eye, spectatorship, gender and sexuality. The primary texts of discussion include all forms of popular media—photographs, films, (music) videos, games, ads, TV commercials, magazines and so on. The course introduces theories of gender and spectatorship from psychoanalytic and cultural studies perspectives. Students may choose to complete their final assignments with either a creative project or a critical essay.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate)		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	Recognize various clichés regarding the representation of gender in popular media		✓	✓	✓
2.	Demonstrate creative ways to subvert stereotypical and patriarchal gender representation		✓	✓	✓
3.	Locate gender bias or ignorance in critical theories		✓	✓	✓
4.	Understand the terminologies of gender theories and in engendered representations		✓	✓	✓
		100%			

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

3. Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

(LTAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

LTA	Brief Description	CILO No.				Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4	
Reading	Present media text/productions through lectures and screenings	✓				
Analysis	Invite students to analyse popular media materials considered "controversial" in matters of gender representation		✓			
Presentation	Invite students to present various gender bias they discovered through class presentations			✓		
Review writing	Review the concepts and their application through critical essay writing				✓	

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.				Weighting	Remarks
	1	2	3	4		
Continuous Assessment: 100%						
Participating in in-class discussions	✓				10%	
Write short reviews for controversial media materials		✓			30%	
Class presentation on a selected topic			✓		30%	
Critical Writing Assignment				✓	30%	
Examination: 0% (duration: _____, if applicable)					100%	

5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
1. Class Participation and Performance	This assessment task reviews students' participation and performance in discussions, debates and peer critique during the tutorial sessions. The evidence of 'negotiation', the sign of discovery, lies in students' pre-class preparation and interpersonal sensitivity to his/her peer members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active in-class participation, positive listening, strong ability to stimulate class discussion and comment on other points - In-depth pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials - Interpret others' views with an open mind and ready to negotiate - Readiness to share personal insight via analysis and synthesis with informed views - Constructively critical, thus facilitating the discovery of new issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active in-class participation, positive listening, ability to initiate class discussion and comment on other points - Adequate pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials - Interpret opinions effectively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attentive in in-class participation, listening with comprehension, but only infrequently contributing - Adequate pre-class preparation but little familiarity with peer reports and other materials - Fair ability in interpreting opinions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unmotivated to participate in class discussion or comment on other people's views - Little pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials - Poor ability in interpreting opinions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unwilling to participate in class discussion and comment on other points, even when requested by the teacher - No pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials - Minimal ability in interpreting opinions
2. Short Review	This assessment will grade on rationality, clarity and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rich content, excellent ability to interpret and integrate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adequate content, sufficient ability to integrate various 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adequate content, fair ability to integrate various 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weak content, limited use of resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inadequate content, no/ irrelevant use of resources

	<p>fluency of argument and comment. The threshold of ‘discovery’ lies in a student’s ability to negotiate a position that is informed, defensible, and standing on personal insight.</p>	<p>various resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Rigorous organization, coherent structure, systematic composition – Precision in argument, well defined and reasoned points of view grounded in insightful interpretation of existing literature – Readiness to respond to peer opinion and other views initiated in class discussion – Discussion shed light on new dimensions of the issue 	<p>resources based on demand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Reasonable organization with balanced structure and composition – Clear elaboration of ideas that sticks to the point, with clearly differentiated issues, ability to interpret opinions independently – Sufficient responses to peer comments to sustain a discussion 	<p>resources based on demand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Fair organization with adequate structure and composition – Relevant points made to the subject matter in question – Ability to respond to other statements and engage in class discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Poor organization, structure and composition – Relevant points to the subject matter, marginal ability to interpret opinions – Ability to respond to other comments in simple terms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – No organization, structure or/and composition – Irrelevant points to the subject matter, no ability to interpret opinions – Fail to respond to other comments
3. Presentation	<p>This assessment will grade on content and fluency of presentation. Students should show their co-operation to conduct a well-organized presentation with their own argument and evidence from readings and notes. The threshold of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Rich, informative content, excellent grasp of the material with in-depth and extensive knowledge of the subject matter – Rigorous organization, coherent structure, and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Adequate content with firm grasp of the material that informs the audience on a subject matter – Reasonable organization, balanced structure and composition – Good verbal communication: comprehensible pronunciation, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Adequate content with comprehensive grasp of the material demonstrating basic knowledge of the subject matter – Fair organization, weak structure and composition – Fair presentation skills: acceptable pronunciation, expression and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Weak content, loose grasp of the general ideas with some knowledge of the subject matter – Poor organization, structure and composition – Poor presentation skills: marginal pronunciation, expression and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Inadequate content, fail to identify the general ideas with knowledge of the subject matter – No organization, structure or/and composition – Poor presentation skills: marginal pronunciation, expression and

	‘discovery’ lied in a student’s self initiatives to conduct additional research and to personalize theories for her/his personal daily experience.	<p>systematic exposition with a strong sense of narrative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Superior presentation skills: distinct pronunciation, fluent expression and appropriate diction, exact time-management – Critical analysis with insightful comments opening up new issues, or suggesting the ability to theorize 	fluent expression and diction, fair time-management	diction, fair time-management	diction, poor time-management	diction, minimal time-management
4. Critical Writing	Students should demonstrate ability to utilize primary and secondary sources, build up argument and analysis. The threshold of ‘discovery’ lied in a student’s self initiatives to conduct additional research and to personalize theories for her/his personal daily experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Excellent grasp of research material, able to explain key concepts, assumptions and debates – Rigorous organization, coherent structure, distinct thesis, properly argued with strong narrative – Insightful interpretation of the subject matter with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Firm grasp of materials, able to explain key concepts and assumptions – Reasonable organization, balanced structure, adequate content, sufficient ability to integrate various resources based on demand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Comprehensive grasp of materials, able to explain key concepts – Fair organization, weak structure, adequate content, fair ability to integrate various resources based on demand – Relevant points to the subject matter, fair ability to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Loose grasp of materials, cannot explain key concepts – Poor organization and structure, weak content, limited use of resources – Relevant points to the subject matter, marginal ability to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Poor grasp of materials – No organization and structure, inadequate content, no/irrelevant use of resources – Irrelevant points to the subject matter, minimal ability to interpret opinions

		<p>distinct themes and thesis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Critical analysis with insightful comments opening up new issues, or suggesting the ability to theorize - Ability to approach a text or a theme using a variety of theories and analytical tools - Strong bibliography suggesting breadth and depth of coverage and informed insights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear ideas which keep to the point, clear-cut subject, ability to interpret opinions independently - Organized bibliography which can be utilized in accordance with the topic 	<p>interpret opinions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unorganized bibliography which can be utilized in accordance with the topic 	<p>interpret opinions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Insufficient and/or unorganized bibliography 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Irrelevant bibliography
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Applicable to students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B)	Marginal (B-, C+, C)	Failure (F)
1. Class Participation and Performance	This assessment task reviews students' participation and performance in discussions, debates and peer critique during the tutorial sessions. The evidence of 'negotiation', the sign of discovery, lies in students' pre-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active in-class participation, positive listening, strong ability to stimulate class discussion and comment on other points - In-depth pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active in-class participation, positive listening, ability to initiate class discussion and comment on other points - Adequate pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attentive in in-class participation, listening with comprehension, but only infrequently contributing - Adequate pre-class preparation but little familiarity with peer reports and other materials - Fair ability in interpreting opinions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unwilling to participate in class discussion and comment on other points, even when requested by the teacher - No pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials

	class preparation and interpersonal sensitivity to his/her peer members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interpret others' views with an open mind and ready to negotiate - Readiness to share personal insight via analysis and synthesis with informed views - Constructively critical, thus facilitating the discovery of new issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interpret opinions effectively 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimal ability in interpreting opinions
2. Short Review	This assessment will grade on rationality, clarity and fluency of argument and comment. The threshold of 'discovery' lies in a student's ability to negotiate a position that is informed, defensible, and standing on personal insight.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rich content, excellent ability to interpret and integrate various resources - Rigorous organization, coherent structure, systematic composition - Precision in argument, well defined and reasoned points of view grounded in insightful interpretation of existing literature - Readiness to respond to peer opinion and other views initiated in class discussion - Discussion shed light on new dimensions of the issue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adequate content, sufficient ability to integrate various resources based on demand - Reasonable organization with balanced structure and composition - Clear elaboration of ideas that sticks to the point, with clearly differentiated issues, ability to interpret opinions independently - Sufficient responses to peer comments to sustain a discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adequate content, fair ability to integrate various resources based on demand - Fair organization with adequate structure and composition - Relevant points made to the subject matter in question - Ability to respond to other statements and engage in class discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inadequate content, no/ irrelevant use of resources - No organization, structure or/and composition - Irrelevant points to the subject matter, no ability to interpret opinions - Fail to respond to other comments
3. Presentation	This assessment will grade on content and fluency of presentation. Students should show their co-operation to conduct a well-organized presentation with their own	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rich, informative content, excellent grasp of the material with in-depth and extensive knowledge of the subject matter - Rigorous organization, coherent structure, and systematic exposition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adequate content with firm grasp of the material that informs the audience on a subject matter - Reasonable organization, balanced structure and composition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adequate content with comprehensive grasp of the material demonstrating basic knowledge of the subject matter - Fair organization, weak structure and composition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inadequate content, fail to identify the general ideas with knowledge of the subject matter - No organization, structure or/and composition

	argument and evidence from readings and notes. The threshold of ‘discovery’ lied in a student’s self initiatives to conduct additional research and to personalize theories for her/his personal daily experience.	<p>with a strong sense of narrative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Superior presentation skills: distinct pronunciation, fluent expression and appropriate diction, exact time-management – Critical analysis with insightful comments opening up new issues, or suggesting the ability to theorize 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Good verbal communication: comprehensible pronunciation, fluent expression and diction, fair time-management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Fair presentation skills: acceptable pronunciation, expression and diction, fair time-management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Poor presentation skills: marginal pronunciation, expression and diction, minimal time-management
4. Critical Writing	Students should demonstrate ability to utilize primary and secondary sources, build up argument and analysis. The threshold of ‘discovery’ lied in a student’s self initiatives to conduct additional research and to personalize theories for her/his personal daily experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Excellent grasp of research material, able to explain key concepts, assumptions and debates – Rigorous organization, coherent structure, distinct thesis, properly argued with strong narrative – Insightful interpretation of the subject matter with distinct themes and thesis – Critical analysis with insightful comments opening up new issues, or suggesting the ability to theorize – Ability to approach a text or a theme using a variety of theories and analytical tools – Strong bibliography suggesting breadth and depth of coverage and informed insights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Firm grasp of materials, able to explain key concepts and assumptions – Reasonable organization, balanced structure, adequate content, sufficient ability to integrate various resources based on demand – Clear ideas which keep to the point, clear-cut subject, ability to interpret opinions independently – Organized bibliography which can be utilized in accordance with the topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Comprehensive grasp of materials, able to explain key concepts – Fair organization, weak structure, adequate content, fair ability to integrate various resources based on demand – Relevant points to the subject matter, fair ability to interpret opinions – Unorganized bibliography which can be utilized in accordance with the topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Poor grasp of materials – No organization and structure, inadequate content, no/ irrelevant use of resources – Irrelevant points to the subject matter, minimal ability to interpret opinions – Irrelevant bibliography

Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

1. Keyword Syllabus

(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

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- from surface: {Introduction: concepts and definitions—ads for him or for her?}
 - ⊙ to focus: {The beauty myth: how the great “look” is constructed}
{Camera eye and the gaze: the keyhole and pleasure of looking}
{Flirting with the camera eyes: double persona in music videos}
 - ☹ to the shows: {Women in film: good and bad, mother or whore?}
{Cross-dressing and gender-role shifting}
 - ☹ from sex: {Pornography and the case of an anti-heroine}
 - ☹ to psychology: {Gender and space: Private and Public Spheres}
 - to the creation: {Boundaries and edges}

2. Reading List

2.1 Compulsory Readings

(Compulsory readings can include books, book chapters, or journal/magazine articles. There are also collections of e-books, e-journals available from the CityU Library.)

1.	Toril Moi, “From Simone de Beauvoir to Jacques Lacan” in <i>Sexual/Textual Politics: Feminist Literary Theory</i> (Table of Contents for <i>The Second Sex</i>)
2.	Naomi Wolf, <i>The Beauty Myth</i> , pp1-19
3.	Steve Craig, “Men’s Men and Women’s Women: How TV Commercials Portray Gender to Different Audiences”
4.	Laura Mulvey’s “Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema”
5.	E. Ann Kaplan’s “Is the Gaze Male?” (pp23-35) in <i>Women and Film: Both Sides of the Camera</i>
6.	Higgins and Silver eds. <i>Rape and Representation</i> . NY: Columbia UP, c1991.
7.	Judith Mayne’s “Paradoxes of Spectatorship”
8.	Paul MacDonald’s “Star Studies”
9.	Diana Russell’s <i>Dangerous Relationships</i> & Senn and Radtke’s <i>A Comparison of Women’s Reaction to Violent Pornography, Non-violent Pornography, and Erotica</i>
10.	Beatriz Colomina, <i>Privacy and Publicity</i>

2.2 Additional Readings

(Additional references for students to learn to expand their knowledge about the subject.)

1.	Lingzhen Wang, <i>Chinese Women’s Cinema</i>
2.	Louisa Wei, <i>The Legend of Esther Eng: Cross-ocean Filmmaking and Women Pioneers</i>
3.	Women Film Pioneer Project, on-line, Columbia University Library