



**GNDS 125/3.0 Gender, Race and Popular Culture**

**Online Instruction/** will require approximately 10 hours per week

**Synchronous Q&A hours on Zoom** attendance optional

**Weekly Office Hours** available by appointment

**Course Description**

GNDS 125 explores popular culture from feminist and anti-racist perspectives, with attention to sexuality, gender, race, and nation in a variety of media. In this class, we will examine and unpack how race, gender, sexuality, and class are constructed and re-constructed in mass media and popular culture. Specifically, we will investigate how popular culture elements are framed through the processes of production, consumption, representation, and reception. The course is aimed to develop a critical understanding of media productions and cultural texts that are produced through social, political, cultural, and historical contexts. In this class, through intersectional feminist analysis the students will engage critically with the most contemporary examples of popular culture.

**Required Course Materials**

Online material accessible via  
Queen's  
University Libraries

**Course Objectives:** By the end of the course, student will be able to:

1. Identify and apply relevant key concepts and theories from gender and feminist studies, anti-racist and decolonization studies, and media studies;
2. Apply media literacy skills to make connections between everyday events, popular culture, politics, and social justice issues as global citizens;
3. Engage in unlearning around the construction, representation and entrenchment of gender, race, sexuality, class, (dis)ability, ethnicity and nationhood in popular culture and develop and apply a feminist, critical, and intersectional lens to analyze;
4. Critically reflect on power, privilege, and oppression and how they are implicated and operate in popular culture and the new media, including evaluating one's own positionality;
5. Utilize an intersectional approach to analyze how the racialization processes and other experiences of various social groups are revealed, subverted, and/or challenged through popular culture;

**Course Evaluation**

- Weekly Exercises ungraded
  - Fan Forum 20%
- Scavenger Hunt Quizzes 20%
  - Creative Project 30%
  - Final Paper 30%

6. Actively and creatively respond to popular culture, exploring resistance as well as consumption or consumptive relationships with received knowledge(s) about gender, race, and social justice;
7. Apply academic research and writing skills as well as ethical citation practices for the field of Gender Studies.

**Topics in Course Outline**

- Popular Culture and Gender Studies
- Gender, Power, and Normativity
- Racialization and Intersectional Analysis
- Consuming Pop Culture
- Gender, Technology, and the New Media
- Gendered Representations
- Gender and Orientalism
- Gender and Racial Capitalism
- Gender and Settler Colonialism
- Creating Feminist Futures