

**IDIV 420 Mass Culture and Sexuality  
Manchester College  
January Session 2008**

Instructor: Kimberly M. Myers, M.A.

Office Hours: Happily, by appointment.

Office: CU 316

Class: MTWRF 12:30-3:20 SCIC 202

Phone: Office 982-5013 (24 hr voicemail)

Cell 578-1112 (after 9 a.m. and before 11:59 p.m.)

Email: [kmmyers@manchester.edu](mailto:kmmyers@manchester.edu)

### **Course Description**

This course focuses on mass mediated representations of sex, gender, identity and sexual orientation in U.S. film and television. Emphasis will be on exploring the impact of these representations on intercultural communication, perceptions of reality and contemporary political discourse. Emphasis will also be given to the debate between biological determinism and social construction as it is communicated in a mediated context. (3 hrs)

### **Course Goals and Objectives**

- Students will learn and apply definitions, vocabulary, and theory regarding media, sex, gender, identity and sexual orientation.
- Students will analyze the ways in which television programming, film and political rhetoric influence perceptions of non-heteronormativity and influence communication between diverse groups in U.S. culture.
- Students will critically reflect on mass media's implications for intercultural communication, using their own identities and experiences as a starting point.

### **Course Text and Materials:**

Readings and handouts available through Blackboard

### **Course grades will be based on the following:**

Attendance	10%
Participation	30%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	40%

1. **Exam 1:** Essay exam requiring students to critically analyze, synthesize and respond to all reading and class meeting material and activities up to the last class meeting before the exam.
2. **Exam 2:** Essay exam requiring students to critically analyze, synthesize and respond to all reading and class meeting material and activities throughout the term. May include cumulative and non-cumulative (post exam one) questions.

3. **Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory and is important in facilitating a cooperative learning environment. All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date assigned! Missing class is not an acceptable reason to turn in a late assignment. Late assignments may be accepted and given a grade reduction, per the instructor's discretion. Any absences may count as a reduction in your attendance and/or participation grade per absence. In the event of SUDDEN illness or EMERGENCY, obtain documentation and contact the instructor at your earliest convenience. Documented absences for non-emergency appointments and obligations, outside of official college academic and/or athletic activities, may not be excused. Many in-class activities and team assignments, as well as exams and written assignments require your attendance and participation. You may be removed from your team and given a "zero" if you fail to attend group meetings and activities.
4. **Participation:** Participation points will be earned through active participation and attentiveness in class discussion, participation in group activities, contributing to a respectful and cooperative learning environment, in-class response pieces and quizzes. Response pieces and evaluations may not be made up—even in cases of documented illness or emergency. Participation includes use of Blackboard and email.

**The final grade will be based on the following scale:**

<b>Cumulative %</b>	<b>Grade</b>
95-100%	A
90-94%	A-
87-89%	B+
83-86%	B
80-82%	B-
77-79%	C+
73-76%	C
70-72%	C-
67-69%	D+
63-66%	D
60-62%	D-
59% and below	F

**Course Policies (see "Course Assignments" for additional details)**

1. **You are expected to attend and participate in class. This includes the physical and the electronic classroom.**

2. Students are expected to check email at least once per day, as well as the announcements section of Blackboard. If you experience difficulties with email or BB you must notify the instructor and IT Services IMMEDIATELY!
3. **Late assignments may only be accepted at the instructor's discretion, and may require documentation of illness, injury, or emergency.**
4. **Assignment format:** All assignments should be typed except by instructor's permission. Assignments (except blog) should be double-spaced, MLA format, include page numbers, Times New Roman or Arial font, 1" margins, 12-point type, and stapled. Assignments should be proofread and checked for spelling and grammar. Any assignment with excessive grammatical or spelling errors may receive a grade of "zero" **OR** may be returned to the student for revision and accepted as a late assignment at the instructor's discretion.
5. All students will conduct themselves in a manner that shows respect for cultural and intellectual diversity. This includes **race/ethnicity, socioeconomic class, sex, gender, sexuality, physical ability, political views and religious affiliation.**
6. **Team/group work is required and expected.** Students will actively participate in team projects and activities. Failure to do so may result in an individual grade of "F" on the team task.
7. **Cell phones** should be turned to "vibrate" or "silent" during class meeting times. If you must take or return a call during class, please exit to the hallway to do so. Cell phones should not be used during exam times.
8. **All students will abide by Manchester College policy regarding academic honesty. Plagiarizing or cheating, or assisting a peer in doing so, may result in a grade of "F" on the assignment in question and/or a grade of "F" for the course. All written and oral assignments must be ORIGINAL work. Assignments may not be submitted in or from another course without written permission of both instructors. For full policy and code information, please refer to: <http://www.manchester.edu/OAA/forms/Academic%20Dishonesty.htm>**

### **A Simple Guide to Success in this Course:**

1. Attend class.
2. Use ALL resources available to you.
3. Complete assignments and **keep up with course readings.**
4. **Actively** participate in class discussion and activities.
5. Turn assignments in on time.
6. See additional feedback if you don't do well on an assignment.
7. Attend class.

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY (from page 62 of the faculty manual)**

#### **Description of Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the presentation of information (either written or oral) as one's own when in reality some or all of the information was derived from some other source. Specific types of plagiarism encountered in written and oral assignments include the following:

## Campus Services

### Success Center

The Success Center is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Union and includes a variety of services to help you succeed! The Writing Center can assist you with writing, critical thinking and reading skills. Academic Support and Career Services can assist you with career choice, overcoming academic obstacles and job-searching.

ITS Helpdesk: x5454 or <http://its.manchester.edu/>

Contact ITS for questions, comments and concerns regarding computer labs, college-owned PCs and software, campus network, internet connection, email, network storage, residence hall internet connectivity, Blackboard, campus-wide phone service, and campus television. For campus printing or copying concerns, contact SpartanPrint@manchester.edu.

### Counseling Services

Counseling services are offered through the Office of Student Development to assist students in finding ways to increase their personal awareness and growth. Counseling Services offers individual and group counseling, consultation, support groups and workshops. Phone: 982-5306

### Office of Multicultural Affairs

The Office of Multicultural Affairs supports campus activities, projects, counseling and events to bring students, staff, faculty, parents and alumni together to celebrate multicultural learning and living. The office primarily serves African-American, Hispanic, Native American, Asian-American and international students. For more information: <http://www.manchester.edu/OSD/multcult/index.htm>

### Blackboard and Email Access

<https://blackboard.manchester.edu/>

<https://mcmail.manchester.edu>

### Your instructor!

Please make an appointment at any time during the course of the term! Do not wait until the end of the term to address problems or concerns regarding the material, grades, or difficulties with classmates! Preferred contact for appointment-setting or questions not requiring an in-person meeting is text message.

<b>Tentative Schedule</b>	Schedule is subject to change and is considered a living document. Updates and changes will be posted electronically and/or announced during course meeting times.
Thu Jan 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b><u>Introduction to Course</u></b> <b>Activity</b> <b>Reading:</b> -A Primer in Queer Terminology -Butler 1

Fri Jan 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b><u>Queer Theory, Feminism, Identity and Power</u></b> <b>Reading:</b> -Butler 2 -McRobbie
Mon Jan 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b><u>Introduction to Media Studies</u></b> <b>Activity</b> <b>Reading:</b> -Kellner -Marx and Engles -McLuhan
Tue Jan 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b><u>Introduction to Media Studies, Continued</u></b> <b>Reading:</b> -Hall -Garnham <b>Video</b> <b>Activity</b>
Wed Jan 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b><u>Biological Determinism</u></b> <b>Reading:</b> -Shagor -Scientific American -Spanier
Thu Jan 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b><u>Social Construction, Heteronormativity and Hegemony</u></b> <b>Reading:</b> -Plummer -Lull -Rogers
Fri Jan 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b><u>Media Construction of Sex/Gender/Sexuality</u></b> <b>Reading:</b> -Gross -Raymond <b>Video</b>
Mon Jan 14 <sup>th</sup>  <b>EXAM 1 DUE SUNDAY 1/13</b>	<b><u>Media Construction of Sex/Gender/Sexuality Continued</u></b> <b>Reading:</b> -Fejes -Hart -Hubert

Tue Jan 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b><u>Queer History—Sex, Gender and Sexuality</u></b> <b>Video</b> <b>Reading:</b> -Umphrey -Halperin
Wed Jan 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b><u>Queer Politics</u></b> <b>Video</b> <b>Reading:</b> -Grindstaff -Butler 3 -Elia
Thu Jan 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b><u>Queer Politics Continued</u></b> <b>Video</b> <b>Reading:</b> -Signorile -Shah
Fri Jan 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b><u>Queer Politics Continued AND Politics of Victimization and Crime</u></b> <b>Video</b> <b>Reading:</b> -HRC 1 -HRC 2 -HRC 3
Mon Jan 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b><u>Chicken and the Egg</u></b> <b>Activity</b> <b>Video</b>
Tue Jan 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Individual Media Analyses/Student-Led Discussion “Catch-Up”</b>
Wed Jan 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Exam 2</b>