Fall 2018

STS 342-101: Women and Technology

Nancy Steffen-Fluhr

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STS 342-101: WOMEN AND TECHNOLOGY

Capsule Course Description:
This course analyzes gender, race, and technology as interdependent social constructs—and explores the implications of these constructs for individual lives and professional careers.

INSTRUCTOR:
Dr. Nancy Steffen-Fluhr, Associate Professor, Humanities (Science, Technology & Society Division)

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MOODLE: http://njit2.mrooms.net/

CLASS MEETINGS: Thursdays, 6:00 pm–9:00 pm Kupfrian 203

REQUIRED TEXTS: STS 342 COURSEPAK—on our MOODLE and via hardcopy handouts.

Shetterly, Margot Lee. Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Please familiarize yourself with the University Code on Academic Integrity, the provisions of which will be strictly enforced in this course. http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/ GRADING:

Two analytical essays on assigned topics.
   Essay #1: due November 8 20 points
   Essay #2: due December 13 20
Midterm exam: October 18 20
Final exam: December 20 30
Weekly Quizzes 5 [10 quizzes @ 0.5 point each]
Class participation 5

TOTAL 100 points

READING/ DISCUSSION SCHEDULE

NOTE ON FILMS: I will show one complete feature film in class (Zootopia on Day 1) and a number of film/video clips. You will also be asked to see several additional films on your own. They are all widely available online and via Netflix and Amazon. If you have trouble finding a given film, please see me.

You should have completed the assigned reading and/or seen the assigned film by the date on which it is scheduled for discussion.

#1 September 6 FIRST CLASS MEETING: Course Overview

Discussion Topics: Course objectives; course structure; grading process; the meaning of gender; the social construction of norms; changing images of the ‘womanly body’.
PowerPoint Lecture: Women and Technology: Images & Realities
In-class exercise: The Bem Gender-Role Inventory
In-class feature film:  
**Zootopia (2016)**

**Homework—to be completed by Sept. 13:**  
- Become a member of our course Moodle: Respond to Zootopia Forum Assignment  
- Complete Core Readings 1a-1d and take Implicit Bias Tests [See below]

**#2 September 13  THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF GENDER—part 1**

**readings:**  
1d. Fausto-Sterling Anne. “Where Does Gender Come From?” in Kimmel, Michael and Amy Aronson. MOODLE  

**Additional Assignment:** Take the GENDER-SCIENCE and RACE IAT demo tests on the implicit Bias site: [https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/demo/](https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/demo/)

**Discussion Topics:** Follow up discussion of Zootopia. The social construction of norms: changing images of the ‘womanly body’; the social construction of norms: gender and work.

**In-class film excerpts and discussion:**  
*Dare to Compete: the Struggle of Women in Sports* (HBO, 1999)

“60 Minutes: Women in Construction”

*Implicit Bias* (Dr. Anthony Greenwald)

**#3 September 20  THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF GENDER—part 2**

**readings and video:**  
2a. Bem, Sandra L. “In a Male-Centered World, Female Differences Are Transformed into Female Disadvantages.” MOODLE  
2c. Kimmel. “KIMMEL EXCERPT 2” MOODLE  

**Online Video:** Virginia Valian on Gender Equity (2012): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zxIjUej-o8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zxIjUej-o8)

**Homework Assignment (due September 28):**  
See film *North Country* (2005) directed by Niki Caro

**#4 September 27  THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF GENDER & WORK**

**readings and film screening:**  
3a. KIMMEL EXCERPT #3 MOODLE  
3b. Pascoe C.J. “Dude, You’re a Fag: Adolescent Masculinity and Fag Discourse.” In Kimmel & Aronson. MOODLE  
3c. Willer, Robb. “Overdoing Gender: A Test of the Masculine Overcompensation Thesis.” In Kimmel & Aronson. MOODLE  
3d. Ely Robin and Debra Meyerson. “Unmasking Manly Men.” In Kimmel & Aronson. MOODLE  

**Film:** *North Country* (2005) [See complete film prior to class]

**Discussion Topic:** The social construction of norms: gender and work.  
**In-class film excerpts and discussion:** *North Country* (2005)  
**In-class short film and discussion:** “Who Are You?” [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUj2OHLAG3w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUj2OHLAG3w)

**Homework Assignment (due October 5):**  
See film *Hidden Figures* (2016) directed by Theodore Melfi

**#5 October 4  THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF RACE**

**Core Readings:**  
4c. Jen, Gish. “An Ethnic Trump.” In Rothenberg, 284-86. MOODLE


In-class short films and discussion: Lunch Date (1990)
In-class film excerpts and discussion: Hidden Figures (2016): See complete film prior to class.


#6 October 11 TECHNOLOGY, GIRL GEEKS, AND BRO CULTURE

CORE READINGS AND FILM SCREENINGS:
FILM 1: Ghostbusters (2016) See complete film prior to class.
FILM 2: Ghostbusters (2006) See complete film prior to class.
5a. “Gamergate Controversy.” Wikipedia overview. MOODLE
5c. KIMMEL EXCERPT #4. MOODLE
5d. Summers Alicia and Monika K. Miller. “From Damsels in Distress to Sexy Superheroes….” In Kimmel & Aronson. MOODLE.

In-class film excerpts and discussion: GTFO (2015)
"Women & Core Gaming” (YouTube)

#7 October 18 GENDER AND HOLLYWOOD: Wonder Woman

#8 October 25 SCIENCE AND GENDER (Then and Now)

#9 November 1 APPLYING GENDER SCHEMA THEORY TO THE FRANKLIN CASE

READING:

IN-CLASS FILM AND DISCUSSION:
The Race for the Double Helix (1987) [97 minutes]

OPTIONAL READING FOR THIS CASE STUDY:

#10 November 8 FRANKLIN CASE CONTINUED + More on Women in STEM Today

ESSAY #1 DUE!

MORE DISCUSSION OF FRANKLIN CASE.
IN-CLASS FILM EXCERPTS AND DISCUSSION: NOVA: The Secret of Photo 51

READINGS AND FILM DISCUSSION:
Contact (1997)  [See the film Contact prior to class]
8a. “Women in STEM Fields.” Wikipedia. MOODLE

#11 November 15  GENDER AND LEADERSHIP…in OUTER SPACE

READING AND FILM SCREENING:
FILM: Gravity (2013) [See the film Gravity prior to class.]

ADDITIONAL CORE ASSIGNMENT: Take the AAUW Gender and Leadership test: http://www.aauw.org/article/implicit-association-test/

IN-CLASS FILM EXCERPTS AND DISCUSSION:
Star Trek OS: “Turnabout Intruder” (1969)
Red Planet (2000)
Gravity (2013)


#12 November 20—TUESDAY IS THURSDAY AT NJIT!
CAREER SUCCESS STRATEGIES: Communication & Negotiation

READINGS:
10b. Gender and Collective Intelligence: a Recent NSF-Funded Study. MOODLE
10c. Rosalind Barrett and Caryl Rivers. “Men and Women are from Earth.” In Kimmel & Aronson. MOODLE

IN-CLASS FILMS AND DISCUSSION:
Deborah Tannen’s corporate training film Talking 9 to 5 (1997)
Presentation by Sara Laschever, co-author of Women Don’t Ask: Negotiation and the Gender Divide (2003).

📅 November 22  NO CLASS  (Happy Turkey Day!)

#13 November 29  CAREER SUCCESS STRATEGIES: (Part 2: Work/ Life Balance)

READINGS:
11b. KIMMEL EXCERPT #5. MOODLE

IN-CLASS VIDEO AND DISCUSSION:
Homework for next week: See the Amy Adams film Arrival (2016) prior to class

#14 December 6  LAST CLASS!

FEATURE FILM DISCUSSION: “Arrival” (2016)

REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM!

📅 DECEMBER 13: Essay # 2 due

December 20  FINAL EXAM!