

Race, gender and media: A methods approach

JOUR 4250 / JOUR 5210

Summer 2012, 4:00 p.m.- 5:50 p.m.

Mon - Thur, GAB 104

Professor Neil Foote, M.S.J., M.B.A.
Phone/office 214-448-3765-c; office-GAB 109; Office hours: By appointment.
E-mail foote@unt.edu
Blackboard <http://learn.unt.edu>

*This course is part of the university core.

Description This course teaches students how to study patterns of media portrayals. Students also learn the history of these patterns and ways they become interwoven in media structures, then indoctrinated to journalists and other media workers. Students will employ research methods to scrutinize media texts through qualitative and quantitative content analysis, social and oral history, semiotics, and textual analyses. We will discuss race and gender as well as representations and coverage of sexualities and sexual orientation, economic class and people with disabilities. Discussion is a major component to this class. You are encouraged to discuss, debate and dissect the topics we study in a civil and intellectual manner.

Required texts

- Rebecca Ann Lind. (2010). *Race/Gender/Media: Considering diversity across audiences, content and producers*, second edition, Allyn & Bacon.
- JOUR 4250/5210 Course packet with articles, available at the UNT book store and other area book stores
- Your own blog
- DVDs, websites, online video

Supplemental texts (not required but may help with research and further study)

- ♦Benshoff, H. and Griffin. S. (2009). *America on film: Representing race, class, gender, and sexuality at the movies, second edition*. Hoboken, N.J.: Wiley-Blackwell.
- ♦Biagi, S. and Kern-Foxworth, M.. (1997). *Facing difference: Race, gender, and mass media*. Newbury Park, Calif.: Pine Forge Press.
- * Bramlett-Solomon, Sharon and Catarsphen, Meta G. (2011) *Race, Gender Class & Media*. Dubuque, IA: KendallHunt Publishing.
- ♦Creedon, P. and Cramer, J. (2007). *Women in mass communication, third edition*. Los Angeles: Sage.
- ♦Dines, G., and Humez, J.M. (2011). *Gender, race, and class in media: A critical reader, third edition*. Los Angeles: Sage.
- ♦Fiske, J. (1996). *Media matters: Race and gender in U.S. politics*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota.

- ♦Gross, L. & Woods, J. (1999). *The Columbia reader on lesbians and gay men in media, society, and politics*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- ♦Hooks, b. (2008). *Reel to real: Race, sex, and class at the movies*. London and New York: Routledge.
- ♦Negra, D. (2001). *Off-white Hollywood: American culture and ethnic female stardom*. London and New York : Routledge.
- ♦Reichert, T. and Lambiase J. (2006) *Sex in consumer culture: The erotic content of media and marketing*. New York: Erlbaum.
- ♦Rothenberg, P. (2006). *Race, class, and gender in the United States, seventh edition*. New York: St. Martin's Press.
- ♦Valdivia, A. (2000). *A Latina in the land of Hollywood and other essays on media culture*. Tempe, Ariz.: University of Arizona Press.
- ♦Wilson, C., Gutierrez, F., and Chao, L. (2003). *Racism, Sexism, and the Media: The rise of class communication in multicultural America, third edition*. Los Angeles: Sage.

Course goals This course will help students:

- Trace the structures of news media and mass media forms that create or enforce stereotypes of gender, race, sexualities, or disabilities.
- Conduct research and evaluate information by methods appropriate to the communications professions in which they will work.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the history and role of professionals and institutions in shaping communications.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of groups in a global society in relationship to communications.
- Work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity.
- Think critically, creatively and independently.
- Write correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the communications professions, audiences, and purposes they serve.

Attendance You are expected to be present for every class and lab, unless otherwise instructed. If you have legitimate reasons for not attending (illness, disaster, death), contact the professor beforehand (by phone or e-mail) and present a note from a physician or other official at class. If you have a religious holiday, please let the professor know beforehand. Coming to class late or leaving early may constitute an absence for that day.

Journalism course registration—for journalism majors and pre-majors only The Mayborn School of Journalism, in conjunction with the Registrar's Office, has eliminated the need for individual class codes for the majority of journalism courses. Registration will begin on the dates noted in the schedule of classes each semester. The system is a live, first come/first serve program; thus, we are unable to maintain the traditional waiting list as has been done previously.

Re-taking failed courses Journalism students will not be allowed to take automatically a failed journalism course more than two times. Once you have failed a journalism course twice, you will not be allowed to enroll in that course for 12 months. Once you have waited 12 months after failing a course twice, you may make an appeal to the professor teaching the course to be allowed to enroll a third time.

First class day attendance Journalism instructors reserve the right to drop any student who does not attend the first class day of the semester.

Disability accommodation The School of Journalism cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students. If you have not registered with ODA, please do so and present your written accommodation request to me by the 12th day of class.

Textbook policy The Mayborn School of Journalism doesn't require students to purchase textbooks from the University Bookstore. Many are available through other bookstores or online. Some are available for rent.

SETE The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a university-wide online evaluation and a requirement for all UNT classes. The Mayborn School of Journalism needs your input to improve our teaching and curriculum. This short survey will be available at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. Prompt completion of the SETE will mean earlier access to final semester grades. You're a critical part of our growth and success. We look forward to your input through SETE.

Cell phone policy Cell phones should NEVER be used in class, including text messaging. You may be asked to leave class for using a cell phone.

Acceptable student behavior Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr. The exact link is http://conduct.unt.edu/sites/default/files/pdf/code_of_conduct.pdf.

Honesty and conduct

When you submit work for this class, it is the same as making a statement that you have produced the work yourself, in its entirety, and that you have not previously submitted this work in another course. Plagiarism, copyright infringement, and similar uses of other people's work are unacceptable.

Plagiarism, in a nutshell, is using other people's written words as your own. Some people consider the use of 7-10 words in a row, copied from another source, as plagiarism. Be sure to include citations when using other people's writing, because plagiarism is a serious offense in any discipline, especially in journalism. It's a firing offense in the professional world. In this department, students face a range of penalties for plagiarism (depending on the importance of the assignment): a grade of "F" on a minor assignment; a request that the student drop the class; withdrawal of the student from the class, initiated by

the professor; an “F” in the course; a referral to the UNT Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities; a notation on the student’s transcript; and suspension or expulsion from the university. A combination of these penalties may also be used.

Assignments and tests

Final Project (media analysis)	35%
Concepts/methods test	25%
Blogging	20%
Participation	15%
Attendance	5%

Grading of these assignments will be focused on analysis based on prior classroom discussion and assigned reading, on thorough research, and on the skillful use of language (including grammar, mechanics, spelling). Assignments are due by midnight on the assigned date. Professional standards will be modeled and upheld for presentations and written assignments.

Graduate students should see their separate syllabus for different class assignments.

Blogging

Part of your grade will depend on posts that you make to a Blackboard Learn Blog where you will reflect on the topics we discuss in class. You are expected to post onto the course blog at throughout the semester. I will check your blog periodically throughout the semester. You will receive a blog grade based upon your analysis, facts, evidence and self-reflection, no matter what your opinion is. You are free to agree or disagree with what is presented in class; the position you take will not affect your grade, but **the quality of your analysis will**. General class information, assignments, syllabus and test reviews are available on Blackboard Learn (<http://learn.unt.edu>).

Syllabus

This is a tentative outline that may change throughout the semester. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to keep up with changes in this syllabus and the assignments. Each class contains quite a bit of material since we meet only once a week. All readings listed for a class must be completed before that class because we will discuss them.

NOTE: All videos and DVDs listed here are available through the UNT Media Library in Chilton Hall. Many can be streamed on your computer at the Media Library Web site or through other sites such as YouTube. You can access the Media Library online with your EUID. If you miss class, you are responsible for viewing the documentaries on your own.

PART 1: NEWS MEDIA

July 9: Course introduction; deadlines; conversation guidelines; blogging instructions; show-and-tell parameters. Overview of mass media theories and research methods.

Doing research and finding previous research in the UNT electronic library. The following databases may be helpful to you in this class: Academic Search Complete, Access World News, Ad*Access, ArticleFirst, Communication and Mass Media Complete, EBSCO Host, Godey's Lady's book (for historical mini-project), JSTOR, Lexis-Nexis Academic, PapersFirst via FirstSearch, Proquest Online, Sage Journals Online.

July 10: Images of race in news. To prepare for this class, please read and be prepared to discuss:

1. Owens, "Network News: The Role of Race in Source Selection and Story Topic," IN COURSE PACKET.
2. Lind book, Chapter 1, "Laying a Foundation for Studying Race, Gender and the Media," p. 1-11.
3. Lind book, "The Social Psychology of Stereotypes: Implications for Media Audiences," p. 16-24.
4. Lind book, "He Was a Black Guy," How News's Misrepresentation of Crime Creates Fear of Blacks," p. 24-30.

DVD: "Racial Stereotypes in the Media."

Instructions for final project discussed.

July 11 & 12: Symbolic annihilation, gender stereotypes and "The Other."

DVD: "Sexual Stereotypes in the Media."

Information on conducting a CONTENT ANALYSIS

To prepare for this class, please read and be prepared to discuss/blog:

1. Vanity Fair article, "Who is Wall Street's Queen B.?" IN COURSE PACKET. (Also available at <http://www.vanityfair.com/politics/features/2008/11/moneyhoney200811>.)
2. Byerly, "Situating 'the Other': Women, Racial and Sexual Minorities in the Media" from Creedon & Cramer, *Women in Mass Communication*, IN COURSE PACKET.
3. Lind book, "Confronting the Front Pages: A Content Analysis of U.S. Newspapers," p. 128-134.

July 16 & 17: Ethnic press in America. The black press in America.

To prepare for class, please read:

1. Ethnic Media in the U.S.: A Growing Force Available at : <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/newswar/part3/ethnic.html>
2. Ethnic Media In America: The Giant Hidden in Plain Sight, Final Report, Bendixen and Associates for New California Media (Available on Blackboard)
3. Ethnic Trends in Media, Nielsen, March 2009 (Available on Blackboard)

4. Political Protest, Ethnic Media, and Latino Naturalization, by [Félix, Adrián](#); [Ramírez, Ricardo](#); [González, Carmen](#), American Behavioral Science (Available on Blackboard)

Video, “The Black Press: Soldiers Without Swords.”

July 18: “Framing” –Perceptions and reality with race and gender

To prepare for class, please read:

- a. Malcolm Gladwell, “Listening with Your Eyes: The Lessons of Blink.” IN COURSE PACKET.
- b. Lambiase, “The Problem with All-American Girls.” IN COURSE PACKET.

PART 2, ADVERTISING, MUSIC AND POPULAR CULTURE

July 19 and 23: Introduction to advertising culture, stereotyping and body image.

To prepare for this class, please read:

1. Lind book, “All I Really Needed to Know (About Beauty) I Learned in Kindergarten: A Cultivation Analysis, p. 38-45
2. Lind book, “Body Image, Mass Media, Self-Concept,” p. 45-54. You can cut this one
3. Lind book, “The More You Subtract, The More You Add: Cutting Girls Down to Size in Advertising, p. 143-150.

DVD: “Killing Us Softly 4.”

*** Prep for Concepts/Methods Test

July 24: Concepts/Methods Test

July 25: Music, race and gender

To prepare for this class please read:

1. Lind book, “Eminem in Mainstream Public Discourse: Whiteness and the Appropriation of Masculinity.,” p. 230-237.
2. Lind book, “Women on Women: The Representation of Women by Female Rap Artists,” p. 244-250.
3. Lind book, “Why Don’t You Act Your Color?”: Preteen Girls, Identity and Popular Music,” p. 55-62

July 26: Gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgender people in media.

To prepare for this class, please read:

1. Lind book, "Cyber-Hate and the Disinhibiting Effects of Anti-Gay Speech on the Internet," p. 271-278.
2. Lind book, "Queer Life for the Straight Eye: Television's Commodification of Queerness," p. 215-222.

DVD: "Further off the Straight and Narrow"

July 30: Men and male stereotypes. Absence from media: Native Americans, Asians, people with disabilities, the elderly and the poor.

To prepare for this class, please read:

1. Lind book, "Arguing Over Images: Native American Mascots and Race," p. 91-100.

DVD: "Tough Guise" – Part I

July 31: Video games and sports.

To prepare for this class, please read:

1. Lind book, "Pixel Pinups: Images of Women in Video Games," p. 250-257.
2. Handout, "You Play Like a Girl! Cross-Gender Competition and the Uneven Playing Field."

DVD: "Not Just a Game: Power, Politics and American Sports"

PART 3: TELEVISION AND FILM

Aug 1: Hollywood and TV: Images and portrayals of race. Impact of reality TV.

To prepare for this class read:

1. *Race and Reality TV: Tryin' to Make It Real—but Real Compared to What?*, by Catherine Squires, *Critical Studies in Media Communications*, <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/15295030802328038>
2. *A Shot at Half-Exposure: Asian Americans in Reality TV Shows*, by Wang, Grace *Television & New Media* (1527-4764), 09/2010, Volume 11, Issue 5, pp. 404 - 427 <http://tvn.sagepub.com/content/11/5/404>

August 2: Princesses, wicked stepmothers and representation of race in Disney films

To prepare for this class please read:

1. Lind book, "Race, Hierarchy and Hyenophobia in 'The Lion King,'" p. 166-173.
2. Lind book, "Wicked Stepmothers Wear Dior: Hollywood's Modern Fairytales," p. 173-180.

DVD: "Mickey Mouse Monopoly."

August 6: Asians/Indians Images. The post-Slumdog Millionaire/Lin-Sanity Era

Readings/Links to come.

August 7: Latinos/Latina Images

READ: [Framing Latinas: Hispanic women through the lenses of Spanish-language and English-language news media](#), by [Correa, Teresa](#) Journalism (1464-8849), 08/2010, Volume 11, Issue 4, pp. 425 - 443

DVD: "The Bronze Screen: 100 Years of the Latino Image in Hollywood."

August 8: Documentary, "Miss Representation" plus discussion.

August 9: Presentations of final project. Wrap up.

FINAL PROJECT due by midnight Wednesday, August 7th through Turnitin.com. You must work in groups of two. Choose ONE of these two:

1. Find an old news magazine or newspaper that would have been available to one of your elder family members or friends at a designated place and time. Read the front page of the newspaper (or 3-4 long stories from the magazine) to discern patterns of depictions of people. Are stereotypes included, either overtly or more subtly? How did you identify these? Why do you think these depictions are used? Are there patterns of these depictions within that main page (or 3-4 stories)? What about photos, headlines, cutlines, bylines, story placement (and table of contents, if magazine)? Who are the sources quoted in stories: official or non-official; male or female; described by appearance or described by title? What do these elements reveal about representations in that era? Visit with your elder family member or friend to discuss your findings, your assumptions and conclusions, and see whether these match his or her own perceptions of that era's news media coverage. You'll write a three- to four-page, double-spaced report of your own findings (mini-content analysis), incorporating the comments from your family member or friend (oral history). Attach charts and a sample of what you analyzed.

OR

2. Complete a content analysis of news media, entertainment media or advertising, using the tools of qualitative and quantitative studies. For example, choose a Web site, magazine, TV news or newspaper, and then create a body of texts to study, such as first-page or homepage stories, obituaries, sports articles, several days of reporting from the same source about a

particular event. Or choose movie or movies, television shows, roles of particular people in movies or TV shows, a particular advertising campaign, portrayals of particular people in ads, video games, music videos, Web sites or other facets of entertainment media. You should analyze the text for aspects of race, gender, sexuality or other topics we have discussed in class. You'll write a three- to four-page, double-spaced report of your own findings (mini-content analysis), including numbers along with descriptive analysis that helps you find patterns or themes. Attach charts or graphs of the numbers you counted or themes you found and a sample of what you analyzed. Be sure to note what is significant about your findings and point out both positive and negative implications.