INSTRUCTOR: Scott Brown

CLASS HOURS: Mon 4-6:45 pm           Room: MZ 361
Office Hours: Mon 12:45-3:45 pm     Office: MZ 337

Phone: 818.677.2864 (office) and 310.208.0717 (after-hours & messages). Do not leave messages on my office phone.

(Note: The most direct, and preferred, way to reach me is simply by calling. I only occasionally, if ever, read or respond to email.)

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Diversity and the Media will examine how racial, ethnic, gender and sexual diversity (among other types of diversity) is reflected in the mass media, and how such reflections influence our views of various peoples. Among the portrayals to be analyzed are those of African-Americans; Native Americans; Lesbians, Gays and the Transgendered; Latino/as; Asian-Americans & Pacific Islanders; and Middle Easterners. The class also will examine media portrayals of class.

TEXTS:

1. *America On Film* by Benshoff and Griffin (Wiley-Blackwell, 2nd edition)

Additional readings will be assigned and given out either in class or via e-mail.

GRADING AND COURSE WORK:

Grades will be based on performance on the midterm (20%), the final exam (20%), two quizzes (20%), a research paper (20%), a film analysis and other writing assignments (10%), and class participation and attendance (10%). The midterm and final exam will cover assigned readings and lectures.

RESEARCH PAPER/FILM ANALYSIS/WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:

The research paper will be your analysis of the media portrayal of one of the groups covered in the course. Students can limit their analysis to one particular media product (e.g., a movie or video game), choose a current collective portrayal (e.g., news coverage of a particular event as it involves one of the groups, an episodic television show, etc.), or compare and contrast current media portrayals in news or entertainment (e.g., La Opinion vs. The Orange County Register). This assignment will be further detailed in class.

The paper is due on the last day of regularly scheduled class (5/4). It should be written in formal academic style, and be a minimum of six double-spaced pages but no longer than eight. It should include a bibliography of at least four academic references (i.e., books, academic journals, etc. Citations from Wikipedia and other similar general on-line sources are allowed but do not count toward the overall number of references). Late submissions and e-mailed papers are not accepted. If I don't have a hard copy of your paper by the end of the last class, it is too late.
The **film analysis** is a three-page commentary of any of the video presentations shown in class. Students can pick any film or documentary to analyze, but all assignments are due one week after the video is shown. In the paper, students will explore the video’s themes and concepts and examine them in conjunction with the readings assigned in class (a bibliography is required). You may also use the arguments/issues put forth in any of the videos to analyze a particular media product (but consult with me beforehand if you choose to do so). Please note this paper is not about whether you “liked” the video or not, and nor it is a summary of the contents. It is intended as analysis. This assignment also will be further detailed in class.

Lastly, students will be required to turn in on a weekly basis a **one-page (no more) reaction/analysis** of that week’s emailed reading(s). Per the above, all assignments are to be double-spaced (handwritten is not acceptable; please do not ask) and due each week during class (again, late submissions will not be accepted and thank you in advance for not asking).

Similarly, all assignments should be free of typing, spelling and grammatical errors. An undue number of such errors will result in a lower grade for that assignment. For guidelines on writing research papers, go to: [owl.english.purdue.edu](http://owl.english.purdue.edu) (please note: there is no "www").

**CLASS PARTICIPATION AND HOMEWORK/ATTENDANCE:**

Class participation is a vital part of the course and is a basis for grading. Students are expected to complete each week’s readings, as well as those that are e-mailed, and to be able to discuss the material in class.

Likewise, attendance is mandatory and is a basis for grading. More than three unexcused absences will lower your final grade. Being tardy (i.e., entering after class has begun) or leaving class early will do the same. If you miss a class, it is up to you to contact other class members, not the instructor, to find out what you missed. Missed exams cannot be made-up unless the circumstances are **extraordinarily** extenuating. Leaving after the class break nullifies one’s attendance for that class.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Students in this course will attain competency in:

- Examining and understanding culturally mediated contents
- Examining and understanding the role of media in contemporary social and emotional experiences
- Examining and understanding the obstacles and challenges in current trends in media and culture

**PLAGIARISM:**

The Journalism Dept. is committed to the highest standards of academic excellence and integrity. Plagiarism and cheating are not tolerated. In accordance with University policy, cheating and plagiarism on any exam, quiz or assignment are grounds for an automatic failure and possible disciplinary action. In addition, all source material and data, including the use of specific words, phrases, sentences and paragraphs, must be appropriately attributed. This includes information posted on the Internet. For explanation of the behavior that is defined as cheating, and a discussion of disciplinary procedures, consult the current CSUN catalog.

**AND LASTLY...:** This syllabus outlines the conditions and parameters of this class. Acknowledgement of its contents implies an agreement to abide by the standards set forth within. It is up to all students to be familiar with the course syllabus and to refer to it regarding class procedures.
COURSE OUTLINE (subject to change):

1/26: Class introduction; societal paradigms and their effect on race, class and gender issues.  
Reading: America on Film, Chps. 1 & 3  
Emailed: Pretending to Be Postracial; Unpacking Privilege; Social Psychology of Stereotypes

2/2: Media depictions of Native Americans.  
Reading: America on Film, Chps. 2 & 5  
Emailed: Arguing Over Images: Native American Mascots and Race; Mass Media, Mass Media Indians and American Indians  
Video: Reel Injun

2/9: Media depictions of Latino/as.  
Reading: America on Film, Chp. 7  
Emailed: A Crash Course in Latino Imagery; NHMC 2012 Report: The Impact of Media Stereotypes...

Video: The Bronze Screen

2/16: Media depictions of Asian-Americans & Pacific Islanders.  
Reading: America on Film, Chp. 6,  
Emailed: A Shot at Half-Exposure: Asian-American in Reality TV Shows; Outwhiting the Whites; Negotiating the Mediascape: Asian American, Men and American Media; Asian Women in Film  
Video: Slaying the Dragon Pts. 1 and 2

Reading: America on Film, Chp. 4  
Emailed: There Are Bitches And Hoes; The Relevance of Race in Interpreting a News Story; Racial Stereotypes  
Videos: Color Adjustment; Bamboozled.

3/9: Media depictions of Middle Easterners.  
Reading: America on Film, pgs. 70-76 (review)  
Emailed: How TV News Makes Arabs and Muslims Feel About Themselves; Stop Saying Moderate Muslims  
Video: Reel Bad Arabs

3/16: Midterm

3/23-30: Media depictions of gays, lesbians and the transgendered.  
Reading: America on Film, Chps. 14-15  
Emailed: Educating the Simpsons; Gay Visibility and Degrees of Transgression; Looking Back (NYT article)  
Video: The Celluloid Closet

4/6: No class – Spring Break
4/13-20: Media depictions of women.
Reading: America on Film, Chps. 10, 11 & 13.
Growing Up Female in a Celebrity-Based Culture; The Beauty Myth (excerpt)
Videos: Miss Representation, Oppressed Majority

Reading: America on Film, Chps. 8-9
Nickel and Dimed in America (excerpt)
Video: Inequality For All


5/11: Final exam (5:30-7:30 pm)