WGS 333: Rape Culture and the Media

Course Description

Our objective is to examine how rape culture is a component of patriarchy that simultaneously perpetuates and reinforces patriarchal values. We will study different components of rape culture, specifically media framing. We will look at both print and visual media and analyze how the media framing present contributes to rape culture. After establishing what rape culture consists of, we will explore how it frames people of different races, classes, and sexual orientations, and the effects that the framing has on their lives. We will discuss the real-life implications of rape culture and media framing, and eventually what can be done about it.

Required Texts


*Yes Means Yes – Visions of Female Sexual Power and a World Without Rape.* Jaclyn Friedman and Jessica Valenti.

*Take Back the Night – Woman on Pornography.* Edited by Laura Lederer.


Required Assignments

- Three Papers (Three pages each, to be assigned throughout the semester)
- Weekly Media Analysis Posting (Post on wise a two paragraph analysis of a media article, and examine the framing of the event and participants from a feminist analytical viewpoint)
- Attend Three feminist events (Write a wise posting, describing the event and what about it made it feminist – or not)

Course Objectives

1. To be able to identify prevalent myths regarding rape and sexual assault.
2. To realize why the patriarchy has a vested interest in maintaining rape myths.
3. To be familiar with the concept of rape culture.
4. To be able to recognize media framing that is a product of rape culture.
5. To understand that a relationship exists between sexism, racism, classism, and other isms.
Course Schedule

Patriarchy and Rape - Week 1

Tuesday

Read through Syllabus – Discuss Rihanna and Chris Brown

Rihanna’s Bumps And Bruises Speak For Themselves

Chris Brown Arrested After Alleged Rihanna Assault
http://www.eonline.com/uberblog/marc_malkin/b99069_chris_brown_arrested_after_alleged.html

Thursday

Patriarchy, the System: An It, Not a He, Them, or an Us. Allan Johnson (75-97)

The Macho Paradox. Chapter 1 Violence Against Women is a Men’s Issue (6-18)

Sexuality. Catharine MacKinnon (475-88)

The Macho Paradox. Chapter 2 Facing Facts (19-33)

Rape Culture – Week 2

Tuesday

Men’s Lives. Men on Rape Tim Beneke (370-376)


The Macho Paradox. Chapter Nine It Takes a Village to Rape a Woman (149-179)

Thursday

I Never Called It Rape. Chapter 4 Why Women are Safe Victims (48-64)

The Not-Rape Epidemic. Yes Means Yes. LaToya Peterson (209-220)
Purity, Pornography, and Rape Culture – Week 3

Tuesday

Sex and Punishment: An Examination of Sexual Consequences and the Sexual Double Standard in Teen Programming. Jennifer Stevens Aubrey (505-513)

Purely Rape: The Myth of Sexual Purity and How It Reinforces Rape Culture. Yes Means Yes. Jessica Valenti (299-304)

Virgin – The Untouched History. Chapter 2 The Importance of Being Virgin Hanne Blank (21-31)

The Macho Paradox. Chapter Ten Guilty Pleasures: Pornography, Prostitution, and Stripping (181-206)

Thursday


Victim-Blaming and Rape Apology – Week 4

Tuesday

A Discursive Investigation into Victim Responsibility in Rape. Susan J. Lea (495–514)


Thursday
When a Man is the Victim: A Second Study in Rape Apology. Via http://thecurvature.com/2009/03/20/when-a-man-is-the-victim-a-second-study-in-rape-apology/

No Person is "Born to Rape” via http://myecdysis.blogspot.com/2009/03/no-person-is-born-to-rape.htm


“Real” Rape, “Gray” Rape, and the Media-Week 5

Tuesday

The Role of “Real Rape” and “Real Victim” Stereotypes in the Police Reporting Practices of Sexually Assaulted Women. Janice Du Mont, Karen-Lee Miller, Terri L. Myhr (466-486)

Yes Means Yes- An Old Enemy in a New Outfit: How Date Rape Became Gray Rape, and Why it Matters. Lisa Jervis (163-170)

I Never Called It Rape. Chapter 3 Why Date Rape and Acquaintance Rape are so Widespread. (35-47)

Thursday

A Woman’s Worth. Yes Means Yes. Javacia N. Harris (53-65)


Boys Will be Men. Consumerism Paul Kivel (186-190)

Rape, Sexual Assault, and Domestic Violence in the Media –Week 6

Tuesday


The Macho Paradox. Chapter 6. Stuck in (Gender) Neutral (91-112)

Prevalence and Effects of Rape Myths in Print Journalism - The Kobe Bryant Case . Renae Franiuk, Jennifer L. Seefelt, Sandy L. Cepress and Joseph A. Vandello (287-309)
Thursday

Images of Sex and Rape: A Content Analysis of Popular Film. Jana Bufkin and Sarah Eschholz (1317-1344)

Advertising and the Construction of Violent White Masculinity. Jackson Katz (349-357)


Case Study: Observe and Report – Week 7

Tuesday


Thursday


Intersectionality and Rape Culture – Week 8

Tuesday

Intersectionality and Identity Politics. Kimberle Crenshaw (533-42)
The Impact of Culture and Minority Status on Women’s Experience of Domestic Violence. Aarati Kasturiragan, Sandhya Kirshnan, Stephanie Riger (318-332)

Thursday

Attitudes Toward Victims of Rape Effects of Gender, Race, Religion, and Social Class. Barbara Nagel, Hisako Matsuo, Kevin P. McIntyre, Nancy Morrison (725-737)

The Macho Paradox. Chapter Eight Race and Culture (131-148)

Racism and Rape Culture – Week 9

Tuesday

The Macho Paradox. Chapter Eight Race and Culture (131-148)

When Sexual Autonomy Isn’t Enough: Sexual Violence Against Immigrant Women in the United States. Yes Means Yes. Miriam Zoila Perez (141-149)

Thursday

The Perpetuation of Subtle Prejudice: Race and Gender Imagery in 1990s Television Advertising Scott Coltrane and Melinda Messineo. (363-389)

The Effects of Images of African American Women in Hip Hop on Early Adolescents’ Attitudes Toward Physical Attractiveness and Interpersonal Relationships. Dionne P. Stephens & April L. Few (251-264)

Racism and Rape Culture – Week 10

Tuesday

Rape, Racism, and the Myth of the Black Rapist. Angela Davis (172-201)

Scene, Act, and the Tragic Frame in the Duke Rape Case. Anna Kimberly Turnage (141-156)

Thursday

Trial By Media: Black Female Lasciviousness and the Question of Consent. Yes Means Yes. Samhita Mukhopadkyay (151-161)

Racism and Rape Culture - Native American Women – Week 11

Tuesday

The Distinctive Characteristics and Needs of Domestic Violence Victims in a Native American Community. Loring Jones (113-118)

American Indian and European American Women’s Perceptions of Domestic Violence. Melissa Tehee & Cynthia Willis Esqueda (25-35)

Thursday

Risk Factors for Physical Assault and Rape Among Six Native American Tribes. Nicole P. Yuan, Mary P. Koss, Mona Polacca, David Goldman (1566-1590)

Navajo Women and Abuse: The Context for Their Troubled Relationships Mary J. Rivers (83-89)

Case Study: Rihanna and Chris Brown – Week 11

Tuesday

Chaos In Chris Brown-Rihanna Mess
http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,490368,00.html

Rihanna Police Photo as...Art?!
http://www.eonline.com/uberblog/b106444_rihanna_police_photo_asart.html

Thursday

If Rihanna Forgives Chris, Can He Still Face Charges?
http://www.eonline.com/uberblog/b103655_rihanna_forgives_chris_can_still_face.html

Is Chris Brown's Career Totally Doomed?
http://www.eonline.com/uberblog/ask_the_answer_bitch/b99660_chris_brow ns_career_totally_doomed.html
Chris Brown Is “Remorseful”…For What, Exactly?

Prejudice Against Sex Workers – Week 12

Tuesday


Thursday


Why does Rape Culture in Advertising Matter? – Week 13

Tuesday

The Impact of Women in Advertisements on Attitudes Toward Women. Natalie J. MacKay and Katherine Covell (573-583)

Women as Sex Objects and Victims in Print Advertisements. Julie M. Stankiewicz & Francine Rosselli (579-589)

Adolescents’ Exposure to a Sexualized Media Environment and Their Notions of Women as Sex Objects. Jochen Peter & Patti M. Valkenburg (381-395)

Actual Rape Victim Jailed for “False Report.” Cara via thecurvature.com

Thursday


Fraternity Membership, the Display of Degrading Sexual Images of Women, and Rape Myth Acceptance. E. Timothy Bleecker and Sarah K. Murnen (487-493)

Everyday Stranger Harassment and Women’s Objectification. Kimberly Fairchild and Laurie A. Rudman (338-357)
What can be done? – Week 14

Tuesday

I Never Called It Rape. Chapter 12 Whose Responsibility is it? (161-167)

I Never Called It Rape. Chapter 11 Men: The Benefits of Change (168-179)

Disclosing Sexual Assault to Parents: The Influence of Parental Messages About Sex. Sharon G. Smith and Sarah L. Cook (1326-1348)

Thursday

The Macho Paradox. Chapter Twelve Teach Our Children Well (227-252)


Patriarchy Matters: Toward a Gendered Theory of Teen Violence and Victimization Lyn Mikel Brown (1249-1273)

What can be done on College Campuses? – Week 15

Tuesday


Thursday

Debrief and Evaluations