

# 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

*I Never Called It Rape – The Ms. Report on Recognizing, Fighting, and Surviving Date and Acquaintance Rape.* Robin Warshaw.

*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.

*The Macho Paradox – Why Some Men Hurt Women and How All Men Can Help.* Jackson Katz

## 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**

<http://www.thefrisky.com/post/246-rihannas-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](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)

**Offensive Feminism: The conservative Gender Norms That Perpetuate Rape Culture, and How Feminists Can Fight Back.** Yes Means Yes. Jill Filipovic (13-27)

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**

**Theory and Practice: Pornography and Rape** –Take Back the Night. Robin Morgan (134-140).

**Erotica and Pornography: A Clear and Present Difference** – Take Back the Night. Gloria Steinem (35-39).

**The Propaganda of Misogyny** – Take Back the Night. Beverly LaBelle (174-178).

### **Victim-Blaming and Rape Apology – Week 4**

#### **Tuesday**

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

**On Costumes** Melissa McEwan. Via  
<http://shakespearessister.blogspot.com/2007/10/on-costumes.html>

**Shakesville: May I Have a Little Victim-Blaming With That?** Melissa McEwan. Via <http://shakespearessister.blogspot.com/2009/04/may-i-have-little-victim-blaming-with.html>

#### **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>

**Defense Attorney Argues that No Doesn't Always Mean No.** Via <http://thecurvature.com/2009/04/22/defense-attorney-argues-that-no-doesnt-always-mean-no/>

### **“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)

**Again I Ask Myself: What Does It Take?** Cara via <http://thecurvature.com/2009/05/08/again-i-ask-myself-what-does-it-take/>

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

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

#### **Tuesday**

**Double Standards in Sentence Structure - Passive Voice in Narratives Describing Domestic Violence.** Alexandra K. Frazer and Michelle D. Miller (62-71)

**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. Seefeldt, 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)

**Images of Women in General Interest and Fashion Magazine Advertisements from 1955 to 2002** Katharina Lindner (409-421)

**Shakesville: Rape in Entertainment series.** Melissa McEwan.  
<http://shakespearessister.blogspot.com/>

### Case Study: Observe and Report –Week 7

## Tuesday

**Observe and Report: It Gets Worse, Much Worse.** Cara via  
<http://thecurvature.com/2009/04/08/observe-and-report-it-gets-worse-much-worse/>

**Observing and Reporting Rape Culture at Work.** Cara via  
<http://thecurvature.com/2009/03/23/observing-and-reporting-rape-culture-at-work/>

## Thursday

**“Observe and Report” Date Rape Scene Sparks Outrage.**  
[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/04/10/observe-and-report-date-r\\_n\\_185827.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/04/10/observe-and-report-date-r_n_185827.html)

**Quote of the Day.** [http://shakespearessister.blogspot.com/2009/04/quote-of-day\\_08.html](http://shakespearessister.blogspot.com/2009/04/quote-of-day_08.html)

**“Observe” Date Rape and “Report” ... Laughter?**  
[http://www.bostonherald.com/entertainment/movies/general/view/2009\\_04\\_13\\_%E2%80%98Observe\\_date\\_rape\\_and\\_%E2%80%98Report\\_laughter\\_/srvc=home&position=7](http://www.bostonherald.com/entertainment/movies/general/view/2009_04_13_%E2%80%98Observe_date_rape_and_%E2%80%98Report_laughter_/srvc=home&position=7)

### 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 Mukhopadhyay (151-161)

**Images of Women's Sexuality in Advertisements: A Content Analysis of Black- and White-Oriented Women's and Men's Magazines.** Christina N. Baker (13-27)

**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](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](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\\_browns\\_career\\_totally\\_doomed.html](http://www.eonline.com/uberblog/ask_the_answer_bitch/b99660_chris_browns_career_totally_doomed.html)

**Chris Brown Is “Remorseful”...For What, Exactly?**

<http://www.thefrisky.com/post/246-chris-brown-is-remorsefulfor-what-exactly/>

**Prejudice Against Sex Workers – Week 12**

**Tuesday**

**Body Objectification, Self-Esteem, and Relationship Satisfaction: A Comparison of Exotic Dancers and College Women.** Daniel M. Downs & Shaan James & Gloria Cowan (745-752)

**Thursday**

**Who’re You Calling a Whore? A Conversation with Three Sex Workers on Sexuality, Empowerment, and the Industry.** Yes Means Yes. Susan Lopez, Mariko Passion, and Sandra (273-286)

**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**

**No More *Black and Blue* - Women Against Violence Against Women and the Warner Communications Boycott, 1976–1979.** Carolyn Bronstein (418-436)

**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)

**Peer Sexual Harassment: Finding Voice, Changing Culture - An Intervention Strategy for Adolescent Females.** Jennifer L. Martin (100-124)

**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**

**Empowering Bystanders to Prevent Campus Violence Against Women: A Preliminary Evaluation of a Poster Campaign.** Sharyn J. Potter, Mary M. Moynihan, Jane G. Stapleton and Victoria L. Banyard (106-121)

**Hooking Up with Healthy Sexuality: The Lessons Boys Learn (And Don't Learn) About Sexuality, and Why a Sex-Positive Rape Prevention Paradigm Can Benefit Everyone Involved.** Yes Means Yes. Brad Perry (193-207)

### **Thursday**

**Debrief and Evaluations**