
GSWS 320-4: SPECIAL TOPICS IN GSWS: THE POLITICS OF ANGER IN CONTEMPORARY MEDIA CULTURE

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COURSE TIME AND LOCATION: Wednesdays and Fridays 10:30 – 12:20; SYRC 5080

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

#MeToo. Greta Thunberg. *Insecure*. Christine Blasey Ford. *The Handmaids Tale*. The list goes on of contemporary media products and news stories that reflects women's collective rage and despair at the white supremacist, heteronormative, capitalist patriarchy. Yet such examples seem to counter the popular feminism (in the form of white feminism, postfeminism and neoliberal feminism) that currently shapes the cultural landscape; indeed, these moments of anger and frustration seem more like a direct response to the rise of "popular misogyny" as conceptualized by feminist media studies scholar Sarah Banet-Weiser. Therefore, this Special Topics course, is an attempt to parse out these current issues and concerns as they are constructed, reported on, and circulated in popular culture. The course will be organized around the following key ideas/issues: popular feminism and its relationship to popular misogyny, and examining and critiquing relevant dominant media discourses; exploring various media (film, TV, comedy, news) that mediate these feelings of rage and despair; thinking about ways to intervene in, and respond to the media as feminists and consumers via themes of resistance and activism. Popular culture has long operated as a balm for women's rage against the patriarchal machine, so this course will also make important connections to what is happening in the current moment and earlier scholarly debates about feminism's visibility in the public sphere and popular culture.

EDUCATIONAL GOALS: