

Masculinity Studies
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This doctoral course attempts to explore a relatively new development in Gender Studies: Masculinity Studies. A field of knowledge attempting to smooth out the antagonisms between men and feminism, Masculinity Studies claims that men and women share the common enemy of hegemonic masculinity: the normative (and oppressive) patriarchal script that has harmed women as well as men. By the same token, the current “masculinity crisis” has not been engineered by feminists but rather by hegemonic masculinity itself. Among our claims, we posit that masculinity too is a gender, a social construction, and that masculinity is not an essential, permanent, or monolithic entity but an unfixed and always changing construction, brought about by the concurrence of multiple processes.

Topics include: masculinity studies theories, hegemonic masculinity, homosociality, masculinity and the body, masculinity and history, the American self-made man, queer masculinities, “nice” masculinities, the “crisis” of masculinity, queer masculinities in mainstream American literature, new masculinities and new homosocialities on television.

Students are required to

- (i) read the assignments for each class,
- (ii) do a short oral exam where we discuss the critical essays we read over the semester.

All reading assignments and presentation texts are available in pdf form.

Schedule of topics and assignments

Orientation

Masculinity Studies Theories

Readings:

Todd W. Reeser, “Theorizing Masculinities” (from *Masculinities in Theory: An Introduction*)

Todd W. Reeser, “Social Masculinity and Triangulation” (from *Masculinities in Theory: An Introduction*)

Versions of Homosociality

Reading:

Michael S. Kimmel, "Playing for Keeps: Masculinity as Recreation and the Re-creation of Masculinity" (from *Manhood in America*)

Masculinity and the Body

Reading:

Todd W. Reeser, "Theorizing the Male Body" (from *Masculinities in Theory: An Introduction*)

Centering by De-centering

Reading:

Peter Lehman, "What Have We Done to Deserve This?" (from *Running Scared—Masculinity and the Representation of the Male Body*)

Masculinity and History

Readings:

R. W. Connell, "The History of Masculinity" (from *The Masculinity Studies Reader*)

Richard Dyer, "The White Man's Muscles" (from *The Masculinity Studies Reader*)

Todd W. Reeser, "Unstable Time: Masculinity in History" (from *Masculinities in Theory: An Introduction*)

The Self-Made Man

Readings:

Michael S. Kimmel, "The Birth of the Self-made Man" (from *Manhood in America*)

Michael S. Kimmel, "A Room of His Own—Socializing the New Man" (from *Manhood in America*)

Queer Masculinities

Readings:

Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, "The Beast in the Closet: James and the Writing of Homosexual Panic" (from *The Epistemology of the Closet*)

King-Kok Cheung, "The Woman Warrior versus The Chinaman Pacific—Must a Chinese American Critic Choose between Feminism and Heroism?" (from *The Masculinity Studies Reader*)

"Nice" Masculinities, the "Crisis" of Masculinity

Readings:

Fred Pfeil, "Getting Up There With Tom: The Politics of American 'Nice'" (from *Masculinity Studies and Feminist Theory*)

Michael S. Kimmel, "The Masculine Mystique" (from *Manhood in America*)

Queer masculinities in mainstream American literature

Readings:

Ernest Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises*

Tennessee Williams, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*

New Masculinities and New Homosocialities on Television

Readings:

Amanda Lotz, "Trying to Man Up" (from *Cable Guys*)

Amanda Lotz, "Dynamic Duos" (from *Cable Guys*)

Please watch

the television series *Boston Legal* (esp. the last episodes of Season 5)

Texts used:

Todd W. Reeser, *Masculinities in Theory: An Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2010.

Michael S. Kimmel, *Manhood in America: A Cultural History*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2012.

The Masculinity Studies Reader, ed. Rachel Adams & David Savran. Oxford: Blackwell, 2002.

Masculinity Studies and Feminist Theory, ed. Judith Kegan Gardiner. New York: Columbia UP, 2002.

Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, *The Epistemology of the Closet*. Berkeley: The U of California P, 1990.

Peter Lehman, *Running Scared—Masculinity and the Representation of the Male Body*. Philadelphia: Temple UP, 1993.

Amanda D. Lotz, *Cable Guys—Television and Masculinities in the 21st Century*. New York: New York UP, 2014.

READINGS

1. Todd W. Reeser, "Theorizing Masculinities," (*Masculinities in Theory: An Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2010. 17-54)
2. Todd W. Reeser, "Social Masculinity and Triangulation" (*Masculinities in Theory: An Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2010. 55-71)
3. Michael S. Kimmel, "Playing for Keeps: Masculinity as Recreation and the Re-Creation of Masculinity" (*Manhood in America: A Cultural History*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2012. 117-156)
4. Todd W. Reeser, "Theorizing the Male Body" (*Masculinities in Theory: An Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2010. 91-118)
5. Peter Lehman, "What Have We Done to Deserve This?" (*Running Scared—Masculinity and the Representation of the Male Body*. Philadelphia: Temple UP, 1993. 1-36)
6. R. W. Connell, "The History of Masculinity" (*The Masculinity Studies Reader*, ed. Rachel Adams & David Savran. Oxford: Blackwell, 2002. 245-261)
7. Richard Dyer, "The White Man's Muscles" (*The Masculinity Studies Reader*, ed. Rachel Adams & David Savran. Oxford: Blackwell, 2002. 262-273)
8. Todd W. Reeser, "Unstable Time: Masculinity in History" (*Masculinities in Theory: An Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2010. 216-226)
9. Michael S. Kimmel, "The Birth of the Self-made Man" (*Manhood in America: A Cultural History*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2012. 13-42)
10. Michael S. Kimmel, "A Room of His Own—Socializing the New Man" (*Manhood in America: A Cultural History*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2012. 157-190)
11. Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, "The Beast in the Closet: James and the Writing of Homosexual Panic" (*The Epistemology of the Closet*. Berkeley: The U of California P, 1990. 182-212)
12. King-Kok Cheung, "The Woman Warrior versus The Chinaman Pacific—Must a Chinese American Critic Choose between Feminism and Heroism?" (*The Masculinity Studies Reader*, ed. Rachel Adams & David Savran. Oxford: Blackwell, 2002. 175-187)
13. Fred Pfeil, "Getting Up There With Tom: The Politics of American 'Nice'" (*Masculinity Studies and Feminist Theory*, ed. Judith Kegan Gardiner. New York: Columbia UP, 2002. 119-140)
14. Michael S. Kimmel, "The Masculine Mystique" (*Manhood in America: A Cultural History*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2012. 261-290)
15. Ernest Hemingway, *The Sun Also Rises*
16. Tennessee Williams, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*
17. Amanda Lotz, "Trying to Man Up" (*Cable Guys—Television and Masculinities in the 21st Century*. New York: New York UP, 2014. 52-81)
18. Amanda Lotz, "Dynamic Duos" (*Cable Guys—Television and Masculinities in the 21st Century*. New York: New York UP, 2014. 146-178)