

AMST/ENGL3473: Gender, Race & Ethnicity in American Film

Spring 2018

Professor Stacy Takacs



This course will focus on depictions of race, gender and ethnicity in American film from the early days of the medium through contemporary times. We will assume ideas about race, gender and ethnicity are constructed from within a social environment, and we will ask how the culture of film--with its strategies of production, distribution and exhibition--contributes to the production and reproduction of these social identities. We will draw from the fields of history, sociology, critical race studies and gender and sexuality studies, as well as screen studies, for insight into these processes.

There is a mandatory lab section during which we will screen a wide variety of films for discussion and analysis. Films might include those above, plus classics like *The Jazz Singer*, *The Defiant Ones* or *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, and more recent films such as *Brokeback Mountain*, *Juno*, *Pariah*, *Crash* or *The Fast and The Furious*.

This course fulfills the D and H general education requirements and may be taken under either the ENGL or the AMST prefix. If the ENGL section is closed, try the AMST one.

Texts will include:

Harry Benshoff and Shawn Griffin, *America on Film*

And a collection of essays available on the D2L (<https://oc.okstate.edu>)