

The University of Maryland
Fall 2011
Women in the Media
Journalism 452/Women's Studies 452
Tuesday/Thursday, 3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.
Knight Hall 1208

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.; Wednesday, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.;
and by appointment

Introduction

Journalism 452, also offered as Women's Studies 452, will explore both the participation and coverage of women in media in the United States and other parts of the world through readings, lectures, guest speaker presentations, student presentations, and videos.

Course Objectives

- To examine the way in which ideas on gender have influenced the participation and portrayal of women in journalism and related areas from colonial to contemporary times
- To study the experiences of both majority and minority women in journalism during different eras
- To learn more about the social roles played by women in journalism and related fields
- To acquaint students with the experiences of a generation of women who helped break down barriers to women's full participation in American journalism
- To strengthen students' research and analytic skills

Required Reading

Friedan, Betty. *The Feminine Mystique*. With an Introduction by Anna Quindlen. 2001. ISBN 0-393-32257-2 (pbk). New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc. Reprint of 1963 edition with new material.

Articles and other documents, and/or links to them, will be provided online under course documents on our Blackboard site.

Course Requirements

Class Participation -- This course assumes extensive participation by each student. Accordingly, each student is expected to do the assigned readings, to attend class prepared to comment on them and to follow media coverage of the participation and portrayal of women in journalism. Specifically, class participation involves:

- a. Attending class regularly and participating in the discussion
- b. Contributing comments to the course blog at least 6 times over the course of the semester, with at least **1 of these contributions** being posted **no later than 20 September, 2 more no later than 20 October, 2 more no later than 17 November** and the **remaining 1 no later than 14 December**, the day after our last class session on the 13th (Please note: at least 3 of your contributions during the semester must be original postings)
- c. Writing a brief profile on our course site on ELMS of a woman journalist from a list I will provide
- d. Analyzing media and writing brief responses to readings or other class material during some class sessions.

Blackboard – We will be using Blackboard throughout the semester, to access our readings, to post announcements and assignments, to communicate with one another about aspects of the class, and for other opportunities as they arise. To access the class on Blackboard, go to: <http://elms.umd.edu>.

Project -- Each student will do original research related to women and media and prepare a research report of 7-10 pages based on the study. This project also will serve as the basis for a 5-minute research presentation at the end of the semester. The original research will be a content analysis of media coverage about a pertinent issue. The original research project topic **MUST** be approved by me in advance. I will provide specific guidelines on the format of the paper and oral presentation later in the semester. This project is in lieu of a final exam and will be due at the beginning of our scheduled exam time, **Saturday, 17 December, at 1:30 p.m.**

Three Brief Analysis Papers – In addition to class participation and the research project, my assessment of your knowledge of the course material will be based on three brief analysis papers, which will be due at the beginning of the class session at 3-4 week intervals: **29 September, 25 October, and 22 November**. These papers will be take home assignments and will cover the readings, class lectures and discussions, videos and presentations by guest speakers.

Grading

Class Participation – 25 percent

Research Project – 30 percent

Three Brief Analysis Papers – 45 percent (15 percent each)

Students with Disabilities

If you have a specific need or disability that might affect your participation in this class, please make an appointment with me to discuss it at the beginning of the semester.

Academic Integrity

I expect students to do all work for this class individually unless I have specifically said that you should collaborate on an assignment. Along with certain rights, students also have the responsibility to behave honorably in an academic environment. Academic dishonesty, including cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Any abridgment of the University of Maryland's standards of academic integrity will be referred directly to the assistant dean of the College and forwarded to the campus judiciary. Confirmation of such incidents can result in expulsion from the University. Students who are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty should consult the university publication titled Academic Integrity: http://www.union.umd.edu/GH/academics/academic_integrity.html#. Students should include the following signed statement on each examination or assignment: "I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment/examination."

CourseEvalUM Fall 2011

One of your responsibilities as a student is to evaluate your courses through CourseEvalUM. Remember that your feedback is confidential and is an important part of teaching and learning at the University. CourseEvalUM will be open for you to complete your evaluations for fall semester courses at the end of the semester. You can then go directly to the website (www.courseevalum.umd.edu) to complete your evaluations. However, because of the assignments for this class, I would prefer that you do your online evaluations following our last class session on 13 December. After you complete all of your evaluations each semester, you can access online, at Testudo, the evaluation reports for courses for which 70 percent or more students submitted their evaluations.

Class Schedule

(Note: Readings should be completed **before** the class session for which they are assigned.)

Thursday, 1 September	Introduction to the Course
Tuesday, 6 September	A Closer Look at Gender and Media http://www.iwmf.org http://www.mediareporttowomen.com/ http://www.womensenews.org/ http://www.wifp.org/ http://msmagazine.com/blog/ http://womeninthemediacourse.blogspot.com/
Thursday, 8 September	Video: "She Says/Women in News" Hornbake, Nonprint Media, Room 0302J
Tuesday, 13 September	Doing Research on Women in the Media Margaret Z. Saponaro, Reference Librarian, McKeldin Library, Room 6107

(Wed., 14 Sept. – Last day to drop a course *without* a "W")

Thursday, 15 September	<i>The Feminine Mystique</i> , pp. 1 - 267
Tuesday, 20 September	<i>The Feminine Mystique</i> , pp. 268-532
Thursday, 22 September	Video: “Miss Representation” documentary about gender inequality in the U.S. and about the distorted image of women in the media
Tuesday, 27 September	Introduction: Women and journalism in the United States and Britain, <i>Women and Journalism</i> , pp. 1-14
Thursday, 29 September	Early women journalists: 1850-1945, Ch. 1, <i>Women and Journalism</i> , pp. 15-34 1st Brief Analysis Paper Due
Tuesday, 4 October	Video: “Around the World in 72 Days” Hornbake, Nonprint Media, Room 0302J
Thursday, 6 October	Women as Investigative Journalists Guest Speaker: Deborah Nelson, Director, Carnegie Seminar,
Tuesday, 11 October	Politics: Women as Political Journalists Selected Examples: Mary McGrory, Helen Thomas, Candy Crowley, Norah O’Donnell, Andrea Mitchell, Karen Tumulty
Thursday, 13 October	Politics: Coverage of Women in Politics Selected Examples: Shirley Chisholm, Patricia Schroeder, Geraldine Ferraro, Hillary Clinton, Sarah Palin

Monday, 17 October, Merrill College of Journalism Career Day

Tuesday, 18 October	War: Women as War Journalists Selected Examples: Margaret Fuller, Margaret Bourke-White, Marguerite Higgins, Marlene Sanders, Christiane Amanpour, Lara Logan Library of Congress Women Come to the Front online exhibit: http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/wcf/
Thursday, 20 October	War: Coverage of Women in War Issues to include: women in the military, rape as a weapon of war, women in the Middle East
Tuesday, 25 October	Women in Broadcasting Guest Speaker: Cassandra Clayton, 2nd Brief Analysis Paper Due

- Thursday, 27 October Library of American Broadcasting, 3210 Hornbake
<http://www.lib.umd.edu/LAB/index.html>
 Chuck Howell, curator
- Tuesday, 1 November Sports: Women as Sports Journalists
 Selected Examples: Mary Garber, Christine Brennan, Sally Jenkins, Melissa Ludtke, Lesley Visser
 Association for Women in Sports Media: awsmonline.org
- Thursday, 3 November Sports: Coverage of Women in Sports
 Association for Women in Sports Media: awsmonline.org
 Washington Post ombudsman, Patrick B. Pexton:
http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/womens-sports-coverage-lacking/2011/06/10/AGk2kLPH_story.html
- Tuesday, 8 November Environment: Women as Environment Journalists
 Selected Examples: Juliet Eilperin, *Washington Post*; Cristine Russell, Council for the Advancement of Science Writing; Beth Daley, *Boston Globe*; and Simran Sethi, independent journalist
 “Environment Reporters and U.S. Journalists: A Comparative Analysis”
 Society of Environmental Journalists: www.sej.org

(Wed., 9 Nov. – Last day to drop a course *with* a “W”)

- Thursday, 10 November Environment: Coverage of Women and the environment –
 Selected Examples: Rachel Carson, Theo Colborn, Wangari Maathai, Jane Lubchenco, Gro Harlem Brundtland
 “Women, Scientists, Agitators: Portrayal of Rachel Carson and Theo Colborn”
 The Nobel Peace Prize 2004, Wangari Maathai:
http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/2004/maathai.html
Our Common Future Foreword:
<http://anped.org/index.php?part=176>
- Tuesday, 15 November Women’s alternative journalism:
 Guest Speaker: Professor Linda Steiner
 The “first wave” of women’s alternative journalism, Ch. 7, *Women and Journalism*, pp. 145-159
- Thursday, 17 November Women’s alternative journalism:
 The “second wave” of print; broadcasting; and the Internet
 Ms. Magazine: www.msmagazine.com
- Guest Speaker: Professor Emerita Maurine Beasley
 “First Ladies and the Press”

Tuesday, 22 November Challenges to sexism and discrimination
<http://www.newsweek.com/id/235220/output/print>
Guest Speaker: Merrilee Cox
3rd Brief Analysis Paper Due

Thursday, 24 November – Sunday, 27 November, Thanksgiving Holiday

Tuesday, 29 November Research Projects

Thursday, 1 December Research Presentations I
All Draft Research Project Papers Due

Tuesday, 6 December Research Presentations II

Thursday, 8 December Research Presentations III

Tuesday, 13 December Research Presentations IV

Saturday, 17 December Final Research Project Papers Due, 1:30 p.m.

Note: This schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class or electronically.

Recommended Readings and Other Resources

Beasley, Maurine H., and Sheila J. Gibbons. *Taking Their Place: A Documentary History of Women and Journalism*, Second Edition. 2003. State College, PA: Strata Publishing, Inc.

Creedon, Pamela J. and Judith Cramer. *Women in Mass Communication*. Third Edition. 2006. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Douglas, Susan J. *Where the Girls Are: Growing Up Female with the Mass Media*. 1994. New York: Times Books.

Nelson, Jill. *Volunteer Slavery: My Authentic Negro Experience*. Reprint edition. 1994. New York: Penguin.

Rivers, Caryl. *Selling Anxiety: How the News Media Scare Women*. 2007. Lebanon, NH: University Press of New England.

Robertson, Nan. *The Girls in the Balcony: Women, Men, and the New York Times*. 1992. New York: Random House.

Streitmatter, Rodger. *Raising Her Voice: African-American Women Journalists Who Changed History*. 1994. Lexington: KY: University Press of Kentucky.

Nieman Reports. Winter 2001. Women and Journalism: International Perspectives. Available online at <http://www.nieman.harvard.edu/reports.aspx?id=100021>

Nieman Reports. Spring 2002. Women and Journalism: U. S. Perspectives. Available online at <http://www.nieman.harvard.edu/reports.aspx?id+100023>

The Media and Women Without Apology. Media Studies Journal. Winter/Spring 1993.

Maynard Institute. The Black Journalists Movement. Available online at: http://www.mije.org/black_journalists_movement/.

Washington Press Club Foundation Oral History Project. Women in Journalism. Available online at: <http://wpcf.org/oralhistory/ohhome.html>

International Women's Media Foundation. <http://www.iwmf.org>

Media Report to Women. <http://www.mediareporttowomen.com/>

WIMN's Voices: A Group Blog on Women, Media, AND: <http://www.wimnonline.org/WIMNsVoicesBlog/>

Women's eNews. <http://www.womensenews.org/>

Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press. <http://www.wifp.org/>