



Department of Sociology

SOC/COM 2220 Intersectionality and Pop Culture

Hybrid Course (In-Person and Online)

Time: Wed 12:15-1:40

Location: Casey Center 222

Instructor: Michael L. Rosino, PhD

Email: Mrosino@molloy.edu

Office: Kellenberg 312 #3 (office on the right)

Weekly Office Hours: T 12:30-1:30 and W 11-12

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to give students a theoretical, as well as practical, experience with issues of gender, race, class, and sexuality as they manifest in mediated artifacts of popular culture. The course is taught from a cultural studies perspective where students will gain skills in critical analysis and media literacy. Concepts of power, privilege, justice, representations, hegemony, consumption, and resistance will be woven throughout course readings, films, assignments, and discussions. In addition, this course is based on the premise that popular culture is never simply diversion or entertainment. Instead, it provides us with stories, images, and scripts that enables us to imagine and practice femininities, masculinities, and sexualities.

How this Class is Taught:

This is an upper-level seminar-style course. That means that the class will be largely based on topical and reading-based discussions. This approach relies heavily on student engagement in the classroom and with materials. Students will bring their own open-ended discussion questions to each class to help guide the discussion. Some classes will be devoted to lectures and discussions covering significant concepts, theories, and further context and information. Others will provide an opportunity for deep readings of more complex material, interactive engagement with media, active learning exercises, and open dialogue on contemporary issues.

Communication

Students should contact me through my Molloy email (mrosino@molloy.edu). I will respond to emails as promptly as possible from 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday. I will also offer opportunities to check in remotely via Zoom. I will also post announcements and updates via Canvas.

Students should use their official Molloy email and check Canvas on a daily basis during weekdays for updates and announcements. Students can use the Settings tab in Canvas in their Account to add other emails, a cell phone number, or twitter account to receive notifications.

Learning outcomes:

By the time you finish this course, you will be able to:

1. Understand the value and application of cultural studies research to issues of gender, race, class, and sexuality in media images.
2. Utilize a gendered perspective in your analysis of mediated communication situations.
3. Evaluate the complexity and fluidity of social identities, particularly with respect to the intersections of class, ethnicity, gender, and nationality.
4. Understand how cultural differences and identities found in such categories as age, race, and sexuality are produced and perpetuated through a variety of social, cultural, and disciplinary discourses.

Guidelines for In-Class Participation

To ensure that all students can learn without distractions, the following activities **ARE NOT PERMITTED** during class:

1. any use of cell phones and other devices besides laptops unless part of a class activity
2. conversations not part of a class discussion
3. entering the classroom late and/or leaving early, except emergencies cleared with the instructor
4. personal attacks on another person's appearance, demeanor, or personal beliefs

Course Grade Components -

1. **(20%) Attendance and Participation via in-class assignments and quizzes (collected in each class)**
2. **(15%) Students will develop short presentations using examples from their own media consumption and examples from pop culture connected to the course material (students will present throughout the semester during class with the schedule to be set once class starts)**
3. **(30%) Weekly Reflections and Discussion Questions via canvas to topics/readings**
4. **(5%) Paper Proposal and Bibliography**
5. **(5%) 1-2 Page Rough Draft and Peer Review**
6. **(20%) Final Paper (3-5 pages, policy paper, op-ed, or case study, building on the proposal and rough draft)**
7. **(10%) 5-10 Minute Presentations to the Class on Your Final Project (end of semester)**

Communicating Across the Curriculum Program: Percentage of Grade Involving Evaluation of Writing, Speaking, Critical Thinking Skills: approx. 80%

Late Assignments and Due Dates:

Late assignments will be penalized with a reduced assignment grade except for family or health emergencies. All assignments for this course should be done well before their due dates to avoid last-minute issues. **Please get in touch with me as soon as possible if you need an extension or clarification.** I am happy to work with students to meet deadlines and negotiate extensions.

Course Materials

All course materials (readings, videos, podcasts, etc.) will be posted on Canvas

All readings will be posted on Canvas as PDF Files.

Course schedule:

Weekly Module	Materials	Assessments (due each Tues at Noon)
Module 1: Introduction to the Class and Each Other	Course Syllabus (on Canvas)	Syllabus Quiz
Module 2: Intersectionality and Pop Culture	Collins (2019); Storey (2021)	Weekly Reflection
Module 3: Hegemony and Media Consolidation	Lull (2003); Croteau & Hoynes (2003)	Weekly Reflection
Module 4: Key Concepts - Ideology, Frames, Discourse	Hall (2003); June et al (2022); TBD	Weekly Reflection
Module 5: Library Session & Final Paper Overview	Resources on the library website about research literacy and academic integrity	Weekly Reflection
Module 6: Controlling Images and Self-Definition	Collins (2009); Strings (2019)	Weekly Reflection
Module 7: Digital Media I	McMillan Cottom (2017)	Weekly Reflection
Module 8: Digital Media II	Noble (2018); Eschmann (2023)	Weekly Reflection Paper Proposal
Module 9: SPRING BREAK!! Whoo!	N/A	N/A
Module 10: Media and Identity Construction	Rosino (2020); Khazraee & Novak (2018)	Weekly Reflection
Module 11: Audiences and Decoding Practices	Rosino (2019); Williams (2017)	N/A
Module 12: Writing Check-In	N/A	Writing Workshop
Module 13: New Directions in Media and Inequality	Harris, et al (2023); Others (TBD)	Weekly Reflection Rough Draft for Peer Review
Module 14: Collective Action and Social Change	Brown (2017); Krutrök & Akerlund (2022)	Weekly Reflection
Module 15: Final Reflections and Presentations	N/A	Reflection on Class and Final Presentations
Module 16: Finals Week	N/A	Final Paper

Disability Support Services – “If you are a prospective or current student and would like to discuss your eligibility, please contact us. To schedule an appointment, please send an email to dss@molloy.edu.”

<https://www.molloy.edu/academics/academic-services/disability-support-services>

Molloy University Writing Center - “the Writing Center is staffed by experienced professional consultants. As an undergraduate, graduate, or doctoral student of Molloy University, you can be helped

at the Writing Center, whether you are writing a summary/critique, a PowerPoint presentation, an application essay, or a research paper requiring precise use of MLA or APA documentation format. You can also obtain helpful handouts prepared by our consultants.”

<https://www.molloy.edu/about-molloy-college/offices-and-services/writing-center>

Student Personal Counseling Center – “The Student Personal Counseling Center (SPCC) is a confidential and free service available to all currently enrolled Molloy University students. Through individual counseling (in-person and telehealth), wellness workshops, crisis intervention, support groups, and on-campus trainings, the SPCC aims to enhance wellness, and offer students a more meaningful, and successful college experience. If you are interested in scheduling a counseling appointment, please call 516-323-3484, stop by Public Square 030, or complete an online appointment request at <https://molloy.titaniumhwc.com/AppointmentRequestForm>. The SPCC is open Monday and Wednesday from 8:30am-7pm; Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30am-6pm; Friday from 8am-5pm. Follow us on Instagram @spcc_molloy.” You can also use this QR code:



<https://www.molloy.edu/molloy-life/campus-life-and-activities/student-personal-counseling-center>

JET Library Virtual Office Hours – “Online office hours are specific hours where a librarian will be sitting in a Zoom meeting, waiting for people to join and ask questions.”

<https://molloy.libguides.com/usingthelibrary/ooh>

Recording - “As a student enrolled in courses offered by Molloy University, Rockville Centre, New York, I understand that classes may sometimes be audio or digitally captured for instructional purposes. THESE RECORDINGS ARE INTENDED ONLY FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES AND WILL BE USED ONLY BY THE FACULTY AND STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE COURSE. PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR INSTRUCTOR BY EMAIL IF YOU DO NOT CONSENT TO PARTICIPATION IN A DIGITAL RECORDING OF YOUR COURSE. If no student elects to withhold his/her consent prior to 9/13, digital recording of the class will begin. Any student who has not contacted the professor prior to that date will be deemed to have consented to the recording. You may notify your professor by email at any time if you choose to revoke your consent.”

Academic Integrity

According to the Molloy University Office of Academic Affairs, “Engaging in any form of academic dishonesty includes:

- A) Cheating - utilizing a source other than self either during an exam or in completion of an assignment
- B) Fabrication - intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information
- C) Facilitating Academic Dishonesty:

- Allowing another student to copy during an exam or take-home assignment

- Allowing your work to be represented as another student's work
- Supplying information regarding examinations to others
- Not fully participating as a cooperative member in group work

D) Plagiarism - failure to cite another's direct words, poor paraphrasing, or rephrasing another's work as to represent them as one's own”

Academic misconduct (such as cheating or plagiarism) in this course may result in failure of the course or expulsion.

<https://www.molloy.edu/about-molloy-college/offices-and-services/office-of-academic-affairs/academic-integrity/for-students>

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

There has been a significant increase in the popularity and availability of a variety of generative artificial intelligence (AI). These tools are shaping the future of work, research, and technology. Used in the wrong way, they stand in conflict with academic integrity guidelines at Molloy University. To maintain a culture of integrity and respect, these generative AI tools should not be used in the completion of course assignments unless a faculty member for a given course specifically authorizes their use. Faculty use Turnitin.com to monitor unauthorized use of AI tools (Please refer to the Student Handbook for additional information.).

Health and Wellness

Molloy University is committed to maintaining a healthy environment. Therefore, students are urged to monitor the website and all health and safety updates for any health-related changes in campus procedures. If you suspect contracting a contagious disease you are encouraged to use good judgment, monitor your symptoms, consult a medical professional, and remain home if needed. At the present time, masks are not required while on campus. However, we respect individual preferences and encourage members of the community to support the individual right to determine their need to wear a face covering. If you have health questions or concerns, the Student Health Services can be reached by email at healthservices@molloy.edu or by phone at 516-323-3467.

A note from your instructor: The COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing and will likely surge during the Fall semester. I will offer complete flexibility to allow you to make up work, stay home, or need any other accommodations if you test positive for COVID-19, suspect you may have encountered COVID-19, or feel you may have symptoms. I personally recommend taking precautions to protect yourselves, your classmates, and myself as much as possible.

Attendance

It is the accepted practice at Molloy University that faculty take attendance in all courses. Students should notify faculty if an absence is necessary because of a serious situation. Failure to attend class for two (2) consecutive weeks at any point in the semester without notification of extenuating circumstances will result in an administrative withdrawal from the course. In the case of an online or hybrid course, attendance is considered similarly important. Therefore, failure to participate in academic activities in any given week is considered an absence. Examples of participation in academic activities representing attendance would be participation in a class chat or discussion board on an academic topic, submissions of a required assignment, digital interaction with the professor on an academic topic, and completion of a quiz or exam. Administrative withdrawal results in removal from the course with a grade of “WA” or “WF” determined by the point in the term and the academic performance. Students should consult the University catalog for complete details regarding withdrawals and the potential financial implications of a withdrawal.