GS 1181: Masculinity and the Movies

Academic 227
MW 12:00-12:50
8/28-10/20 (8 Weeks)

Instructor: Dr. John Wegner
Office: A 312 (Library 3rd floor; Freshman College)
Phone: 325-486-6143
Email: john.wegner@angelo.edu
Student Contact Hours: MW: 8:00-10:00; Tuesday: 9:00-10:00; Thursday 2:00-3:00

“Little by little, the look of the country changes because of the men we admire.” (Homer Bannon, Hud)

Required materials:
- Email and internet: You have access to both as ASU students. If you have not activated your ASU email account, do so.
- If you do not have a personal computer (desk top or laptop) in your dorm room, let me know. As students at ASU, you have access to computer labs on campus and you can check out laptops for use in the library.
- Log in to Blackboard, either through Ramport or via blackboard.angelo.edu. Our class is 17FALL: Masculinities & American Movies
- Students have free access to Total Film Magazine.

Via Angelo State Wi-Fi
- Connect your smartphone or tablet to authenticated Wi-Fi
- Download PressReader from app store or go to www.pressreader.com
- Launch PressReader, pick your title and enjoy reading

Students with difficulty above can
- Log in to Ramport
- Use the Library Tab (top left)
- Click on research tools (in the magnifying glass section)
- Hoover mouse over Research “Routes”
- Click on Library Databases
- Choose “P” in View by Title box (right hand side)
- Click on Press Reader

Other readings are available on line or in Blackboard.

Texts:
All assigned essays are located in Blackboard. You will be required to read short essays during the course.
Prerequisites and skills required:
1. The ability to read, write, and think critically at the collegiate level.
2. You must possess a willingness to utilize the Academic Support Centers at Angelo State University: Tutoring and Supplement Instruction is available free of charge for many courses at Angelo State University.
3. The ability to email and use web based search engines.

Course Description and Purpose:

All incoming college students must adjust to the increased academic expectations and the newfound freedom associated with a university setting. Our goal is to help each of you prepare for those demands by giving you some specific skill sets that will help you prepare for success.

We will develop these skill sets by applying them to a discussion of film, masculinity (and femininity), and American culture. In many ways, movies are the dominant narrative of the 21st century, and Americans are virtually bombarded with access and opportunity to watch these films. There’s not really any doubt that this barrage of pop culture influences our expectations and identities. During this class, we’ll ask how. What does it mean, for instance, to “act like a man?” Do big girls really “not cry?” As importantly, we’ll look at the way movies challenge our ideas about gender and how they confirm those ideas. Within those conversations, we’ll practice our critical thinking skills, our writing skills, and discuss how each of you can persist toward a college degree.

Course Objectives:

- Developing skills in expressing oneself in writing
- Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view
- Learning how to find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems

Student Learning Outcomes:
Upon completion of GS 1181: Masculinities & Movies, students will be able to

- conceptualize, apply, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information;
- use the library’s resources and other electronic databases to gather information;
- reflect and articulate an understanding of the course material through written summaries and class discussion;
- engage with the community within the context of film and culture;

Student Learning Assessment:
Student learning will be assessed via course projects, quizzes, exams, and daily assignments.

Attendance:
You are responsible for all the material covered in class. Students who miss class must contact me within 12 hours by email with a written explanation and you must contact a class member to get a course update.

Academic Honesty:
Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which
is contained in both print and web versions of the Student Handbook. In essence, the willingness to cheat undermines our purpose at the university. Students who cheat risk failing the course. 

**Student Responsibilities:**

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**Grades and Assignments:**

Daily Assignments:  
1. Quizzes and daily written assignments  
2. Class participation  
Information Literacy Assignments  
Written Summaries  
Group film

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**Students with Disabilities:**

- Angelo State University is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation.
- Student Contact: The Student Life Office is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, at (325) 942-2191 or (325) 942-2126 (TDD/FAX) or by e-mail at Student.Life@angelo.edu to begin the process.

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**Student absence for observance of religious holy days**

“A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence.”

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Course Calendar: Classes start promptly and last 50 minutes.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8-28</td>
<td>Syllabus; course introduction; Reading for Class discussion; Access <em>Total Film Magazine</em> via PressReader; Student Classroom Responsibilities</td>
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Bookstore, OneCard, and other logistics |
| 9-4    | Labor Day |
| 9-6    | Bring a list of your top 10 movies and top 10 favorite leading men. Read *Roger Ebert’s Review of Gran Torino*  
What does it mean to be a man (and, conversely, a woman)?; *Gran Torino* |
| 9-11   | Read “Explainer: What does the ‘male’ gaze mean, and what about the female gaze?”  
Due Short Response: How do our first two films define masculinity? |
<p>| 9-13   | Read: “The Male Gaze has Outlived Its Usefulness”; <em>Die Hard</em> |</p>
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<tr>
<td>9-18</td>
<td>Due: Three research questions based on masculinity, movies, and the male gaze. Due: Info &amp; Critical Thinking/Searching with Subjects video and quizzes due BEFORE class time</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-18</td>
<td>View: “If Male Avengers Posed Like Female One”; The Incredibles Basics of Citation/Plagiarism videos and quizzes due BEFORE class;</td>
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<td>9-20</td>
<td>Read: “Fight Club: is masculinity still in a state of crisis?” and “Are the Suburbs Killing Your Manhood”; Fight Club Due: Summary 1</td>
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<td>9-25</td>
<td>Read: “American men’s hidden crisis: They need more friends!”; Stand by Me Discuss: Bibliographic information and scholarly articles Due: Popular vs. Scholarly/Keywords &amp; Synonyms videos and quizzes due BEFORE class time</td>
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<td>9-27</td>
<td>Read: “Creed and the Fight for Black Masculinity”; Creed</td>
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<td>10-2</td>
<td>Story Boards and personal movies—in class preparation</td>
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<td>10-4</td>
<td>Due: 3 Bibliographical information from 3 scholarly articles Review “Gender Inequality in Film—An Infographic”; discuss short movie</td>
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<td>10-9</td>
<td>Read: “Girls and Guns: Understanding the Gender Politics of Kick-Ass” and “Does Hit Girl Kick Ass?”; Kick-Ass Due: Boolean &amp; Truncation/Interlibrary Loan &amp; 360 videos and quizzes due BEFORE class</td>
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<td>10-11</td>
<td>Summary 2 due; Men, Women, and Family; Pieces of April</td>
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<td>10-16</td>
<td>Student Films—Groups 1-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-18</td>
<td>Student Films—Groups 5-8</td>
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