GS 1181-F17: When Filmmaking was Women’s Business

Instructor: Elisabeth-Christine Muelsch
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Office hours: MWF 11:00 AM-12:00PM; TTh 10:00-11:00 AM & by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION/OVERVIEW

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 a student 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 GS 1181-F17: When Filmmaking was Women’s Business
- In this class, we will use many online resources. You will find many of the assigned reading in your syllabus.

- Other readings will be made available in Blackboard.

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.
4. Familiarity with the use of Microsoft Office Word and PowerPoint (or other acceptable presentation.
5. Access to Angelo State University Blackboard

Technical Support:
The Technology Service Center (TSC) may be contacted by calling (325) 942-2911, 1-866-942-2911; or by email at helpdesk@angelo.edu

Course Description and Purpose:
All incoming college students must adjust to the increased academic expectations and the newly found freedom associated with a university setting. My goal as an instructor is to
help each of you to prepare for those demands by giving you some specific skill sets that will help you prepare for success in the university and in your future professional life.

We will develop these skill sets by applying them in our discussions about the film industry, and more specifically, about the role women play within this industry today. We will then contrast the women’s role in today’s film industry with the one they held in the early days of cinema, in Europe and in the United States. You will notice some very surprising differences!!

Most likely you are in this class, because you have a strong interest in film, or in business, or in women rights and equal opportunity, and maybe, you are interested in all of these topics. This last year, we all have heard and read about “Me Too” and the unveiling of sexual abuse cases in Hollywood and in the American and European Media industries. In today’s film industry, women are hardly on a par with their male colleagues. The difficult working conditions for women in an industry marked by subtle and not so subtle sexist attitudes have been addressed countless times, rather candidly by the actress Patricia Arquette during her 2015 Oscar acceptance speech. While there are quite a few successful actresses (who, nevertheless, are on average paid less than male actors), there are very few recognized female directors and cinematographers. In May 2017, Sofia Coppola became only the second woman to receive the Palme d’Or for best director at the Cannes Film Festival.

However, in the early days of cinema, this was quite different. There were many successful female producers, directors, cinematographers, and yes, also actresses. What facilitated women’s access to this emerging industry, and what motivated the change that gradually pushed women out of the film industry, or forced them into « secondary » roles? In this class, we will explore women’s role in the early days of the film industry by taking a look at successful female producers and directors who shaped cinema and the way we produce film and recognize today’s cinematic achievements.

**Course Objectives**

**Core Student Learning Outcomes**
The objectives of this course are for you to develop applicable knowledge in regard to:

- **Critical Thinking (CT1):** Gather, analyze, and evaluate information relevant to women’s role in the film industry
- **Communication Skills (CS1, CS2):** Develop and express ideas related to women’s role in the film industry through effective written and oral communication.
- **Personal Responsibility (PR1):** Demonstrate the ability to evaluate choices, actions and consequences as related to ethical decision-making.
- **Social Responsibility (SR3):** Demonstrate the ability to engage effectively in the campus community.
Course Objectives
Upon completion of this course, you should be able to confirm in the IDEA evaluation that you have achieved the following:

- 8. Developed skill in expressing yourself orally or in writing
- 9. Learned how to find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems
- 11. Learned how to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view


In this course, you will work in small groups (work in a team structure), evaluate information (solve problems), do research ((obtain information), summarize information (process information), use Blackboard (show proficiency with computer software), and communicate with classmates (communicate verbally with people inside the organization).

Method of Assessing Learning Outcomes
Core student learning outcomes will be assessed through course assignments. Student learning will be assessed via participation, daily assignments, written summaries, and an oral presentation.

Course Requirements
Two article summaries (related to course topic)
Information Literacy (embedded in Blackboard)
Participation in a university or college-wide event
Participation in a community event
Active class participation
Oral Presentation

Grades and Assignments:
Daily Assignments: 20%
1. Daily written assignments (e.g., short responses on classroom topics and attended community events) (10%)
2. Class participation (10%)
Information Literacy Assignments 20%
Written Summaries 30%
Oral Presentation (including supporting PowerPoint slides, annotated bibliography of at least 4 titles, show-and-tell object) 30%

Daily Assignments:
1. Daily written assignments can be short responses to topics discussed or films watched in class. You will have to attend 2 outside class events (college, university,
community events) and write a short 150 words statement/comment on this event. Your statements should tie in with the overall topic of this class. You can, for example, visit a class that has a cinema focus, and write about this class experience (you might want to take a close look at the syllabus and talk to the instructor). Or you could visit an on-campus movie screening, and report on that experience (asking also the organizers why they selected that movie, and ask maybe other students in attendance how they felt about this movie).

2. Class participation is important. Be in class and engage actively in classroom discussions.

Information Literacy Assignments and BB Quizzes
The Information Literacy Assignments and the Blackboard Quizzes will be taken online. You will watch short videos and then be quizzed over the content of the videos. We will also have a session with a person from the library who will train you on how to do searches in library data bases. We will provide a handout with further details.

Written Summaries
In this class, you will have to write 2 written summaries. I will provide a handout explaining how to write an effective summary, and I will also explain the grading criteria I will be using to assess your writing.

Oral Presentation
Your final assessment will be an oral presentation. This will be a group presentation, in which the group can decide on a female director, film editor, producer, costume designer, script writer, cinematographer, actress NOT discussed in class. Once you have selected your topic, you will have to read up on it a little and provide an annotated bibliography to 4-5 articles, books, films you have read or watched. You have to do a PowerPoint presentation (which will have to include a 5-minute film clip to make your point) and you will have to bring and explain a show-and-tell object that is relevant to your topic.

Course Policies

Academic Honesty and Integrity
Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the university Academic Honor Code and the ASU Student Handbook.

The instructor has every intention to be as fair and impartial as is humanly possible. Therefore, all students will be asked to adhere to the same set of guidelines and rules UNLESS there are disabilities or documented extenuating circumstances that have been discussed with the professor and the Student Life Office. Please make sure you inform the professor as soon as any situation arises. Do NOT wait until the problem is compounded by poor class performance, poor attendance, etc.
Academic integrity is expected. This includes, but is not limited to, any form of cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized sharing of work, or unauthorized possession of course materials. The professor assumes that all students can be trusted. Please do not violate this trust. Violation of academic integrity will result in a failing grade for the course.

**Courtesy and Respect**
Courteous and Respect are essential ingredients to this course. We respect each other’s opinions and respect their point of view at all times while in our class sessions. The use of profanity & harassment of any form is strictly prohibited (Zero Tolerance), as are those remarks concerning one’s ethnicity, life style, race (ethnicity), religion, etc.; violations of these rules will result in immediate dismissal from the course.

**Accommodations for Disability**
As stated in the Angelo State University Operating Policy and Procedure (OP 10.15 Providing Accommodations for Students with Disabilities), 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 at (325) 942-2191 or (325) 942-2126; (325) 942-2126 (TDD/FAX) or by e-mail at Student.Life@angelo.edu to begin the process. The Student Life Office will establish the particular documentation requirements necessary for the various types of disabilities.

**Attendance**
You are responsible for all the material covered in class. If you miss a class you must contact me within 12 hours by email with a written explanation why you were absent, and you must contact a class member to get a course update. You are allowed 2 class absences for any reason without penalty, thereafter 2 points will be deducted for any subsequent absence. **If you miss six class periods you will fail this class.**

**Religious Holy Day Observance**
As stated in the Angelo State University Operating Policy and Procedure (OP 10.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day), a student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence (usually 48).

**Make-up Work**
Make-up will only be given if you provide documentation and give a valid reason why you were absent. Valid reasons for an absence include illness, family emergency or participation in an authorized university activity. There will be no make-up for the final oral group presentation. All group members need to be present for the group presentation.

**Course Drop**
To view information about how to drop this course or to calculate important dates relevant
to dropping this course, you can visit

Incomplete as a Course Grade
As stated in the Angelo State University Operating Policy and Procedure (OP 10.11 Grading Procedures), the grade I is given when the student is unable to complete the course because of illness or personal misfortune. An I that is not removed before the end of the next long semester automatically becomes an F. A graduate student will be allowed one year to remove a grade of I before it automatically becomes an F. To graduate from ASU, a student must complete all I’s.

Grade Appeal Process
As stated in the Angelo State University Operating Policy and Procedure (OP 10.03 Student Grade Grievances), a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see Operating Procedure 10.03 at: http://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14196-op-1003-grade-grievance.

Academic Support Services
• ASU Tutor Center (www.angelo.edu/dept/tutoring)
• Writing Center (www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center)
• Math Lab (www.angelo.edu/dept/mathematics/lab_hours)
• Supplemental Instruction (www.angelo.edu/dept/si)
• Upswing 24/7 online tutoring (https://angelo.upswing.io/)

The ASU Tutor Center, Writing Center, Math Lab and SI also offer online tutoring.

Course Calendar: Classes start promptly and last 50 minutes.

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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| 8-28  | Syllabus; course introduction; teams  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_Iy-yLe0p8  
| 8-30  | Guest Speaker: Michelle Boone, Title IX Compliance Director.  
Homework for next class period: In order to discuss the current state of affairs for women in the film industry, please take a look at the following articles. Each team will be assigned one article on which it will have to present next class session. |
1. [https://womenintvfilm.sdsu.edu/research/](https://womenintvfilm.sdsu.edu/research/)

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>9-4</td>
<td>Discussion of articles in class!</td>
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<td>9-6</td>
<td>Psychology Presentation (Dr. Tay Hack)-Gender Stereotypes Discussion. (write short statement 150 words)</td>
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| 9-11 | Women Filmmakers of the Early Days:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRUuGvx4XCk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRUuGvx4XCk) (think about choosing one for your oral presentation!))  
**Alice Guy (Presentation)**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqID7RLoNAI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqID7RLoNAI)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CYbQ0O6pwuNs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CYbQ0O6pwuNs)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47qRYJvW9k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47qRYJvW9k) |
| 9-13 | Germaine Dulac (presentation) |
| 9-18 | *La Souriante Madame Beudet* (1922) Read the hand-out I will give you and write a summary of the text. This will be your first summary. **The summary is due on 9/20/2018 by the end of the day (11.59 PM)** |
| 9-20 | Lotte Reiniger (presentation)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZG-z-bTRgto](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZG-z-bTRgto)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LvU55CUw5Ck](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LvU55CUw5Ck)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1N2UeEsa2qA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1N2UeEsa2qA) (finish watching this film at home and write 5 interesting facts you learned about Lotte Reiniger) |
| 9-25 | *The Adventures of Prince Achmed* (1926) This session will last 30 Minutes longer, so we can watch the entire film. You will therefore not have class on October 4th. |
| 9-27 | Library Session with Kimberly Wirth. We will meet on the first floor of the Library in the Information Literacy Corner - signs will be posted. Work on Information Literacy Quizzes and bibliographic research. **All assigned Information Literacy Quizzes are due by the end of the day (11.59 PM)** |
| 10/2 | Lois Weber (presentation) Film: *Suspense* (1913)  
**Homework:** Watch this interpretation of the film “Where are my children?”  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gOp7tYFk-38](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gOp7tYFk-38)  
Answer the following questions and bring your answers to class: According to the presenter, what is the main topic of the film? Is that a topic that is
frequently treated in cinema? What are eugenics? What does the presenter consider “flawed beliefs”? Which innovative film technical aspects does he highlight in this film?

Write a summary of the interpretation after we have watched the film in class.

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<tr>
<th>10/4</th>
<th><strong>No Class</strong></th>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Topics for final presentations are due. Each group must provide 2 different research topics (One responsible team member has to email the two research topics to me by the end of the day- 11:59 pm)</strong></td>
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<td>10-9</td>
<td><em>Where are my children (1916)</em> Film is 65 minutes long, so you will have to stay 15 minutes longer or finish watching the film at home on youtube: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwrkAyH0-8A">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwrkAyH0-8A</a></td>
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<td>10-5</td>
<td>Theatre Students directed play- opportunity for 150 word report on outside class event.</td>
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<td>10-11</td>
<td>Esfir Shub and the compilation film (presentation) “The Fall of the Romanov Dynasty” (Excerpt)</td>
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**Summary II on the interpretational video clip of “Where are my children” is due at the beginning of the class on 10/11.**

| 10-16 | **Oral group presentation,** PowerPoint with video clip, annotated bibliography with 4-5 titles, one show-and-tell object. |
| 10-18 | **Oral group presentation,** PowerPoint with video clip, annotated bibliography with 4-5 titles, one show-and-tell object. |

Community and university events that might be good for your 150 word report:

- **Girls Night Out** August 27 6-8 P.M. Junell Center/Stephens Arena
- **Part-time Job Fair** Sept. 5 1-3 P.M. Houston Hart University Center
- **San Angelo Internship and Volunteerism Fair** Sept. 19 11A.M. -1 P.M. Houston Hart University Center
- **The Basics of Bookkeeping** Sept. 25 6-8:30 P.M. Business Research Center (This is a Workshop. You have to register and Pay $20.00)
- **Theatre Students Directed**
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<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Plays</td>
<td>Oct. 5</td>
<td>8 P.M.</td>
<td>CARR Education-Fine Arts Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theatre Students Directed Plays</td>
<td>Oct. 6</td>
<td>8 P.M.</td>
<td>CARR Education-Fine Arts Building</td>
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<td>Great War Series: Make Way for Democracy</td>
<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td>7-8:30 P.M.</td>
<td>CARR Education-Fine Arts Building</td>
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<td>Theatre: The Flick</td>
<td>Oct. 11-13</td>
<td>8 P.M.</td>
<td>CARR Education-Fine Arts Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theatre: The Flick</td>
<td>Oct. 18</td>
<td>8 P.M.</td>
<td>CARR Education-Fine Arts Building</td>
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Any event at the San Angelo Performing Arts Center (before Oct. 18). You can get cheaper tickets the night of the event at the ticket booth in the Performing Arts Center.

There is also the San Angelo Civic Theater and Be Theatre that have shows. Check their calendar. Tickets are not discounted, though.