

Blog Entries (20%)

You are required to post six entries on our course blog. The blog entry assignments are listed in the course schedule section of this syllabus and will be posted on the blog under the category section. You may post up to two more entries for extra credit.

Blog Entry #1: Post an entry by Tuesday 1/23 in which you list two positive and two negative images of women within mainstream media.

Blog Assignment #2: Visit a toy store and observe how the toys are gendered. Think about these toys in relation to Peril's discussion of Pink Think and Orenstein's discussion of the princess phenomenon. Post a blog entry by Tuesday 2/6 in which you critically reflect on your experience at the toy store and on how toys reinforce norms about what it means to be a girl. How do girls' toys differ from boys' toys? What kinds of images/ attitudes/ behaviors do girls' toys promote?

Blog Assignment #3: Search the web and find an image of a woman that speaks to the issues we are discussing this week in class. What is your reaction to this image? What types of norms does it reinforce? Is it a positive or negative image? Post the image and your response to these questions by Tuesday 2/20.

Blog Assignment #4: Write a response to Mean Girls.

Blog Assignment #5: Post a response by Tuesday 3/27 to the following questions: How have women used comedy to subvert and/or redefine norms? Is comedy a useful tool? Who is your favorite female comedian and why?

Blog Assignment #6: Post a response to the following questions by Tuesday 4/24: How are women politicians represented in the popular media (nationally and/or locally)? How does race, class, ethnicity, or sexual preference determine those representations?