

FLNG 381: Introduction to Masculinities

Course Information

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Days: Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 to 3:15

Room: CCC 207

Basic Information about the Professor

Name: Eduardo Gregori, Ph.D. You may refer to me as “Eduardo” or “Professor Gregori.”

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, from 11 to 1

Office location: CCC 411.

E-mail: egregori@uwsp.edu

Background Information about the Professor

I was born and raised in Valencia, Spain. I attended Universidad de Valencia, where I graduated with a major in English in 2001. The following year, I enrolled as a graduate student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where I completed my M.A. in Spanish in 2005. Between 2005 and 2009 I completed my Ph.D. in Spanish at Penn State University. I have been an Assistant Professor of Spanish at UWMC since August 2009. All in all, I have 13 years of college teaching experience.

My area of research is Spanish modernism and avant-garde (literature ranging from, roughly, the 1890s to the 1930s). I have published several articles on the topic and presented at many national conferences. I have just recently published an edited book (with University of Colorado professor, Juan Herrero-Senés) on the Spanish avant-garde entitled *The Challenge of Modernity: Avant-Garde Cultural Practices in Spain (1914-1936)*. My research interests deal with topics of embodiment and representation. I’m currently starting preliminary work on a new project about the representation of masculinity in modernist and avant-garde Spanish literature. I’m also interested in the cultural production of “Americaniards”; Spaniards living in the United States.

Course Materials

We will use a combination of a course packet (which you will access in D2L) which comprises about 18 scholarly articles on several aspects of masculinity studies, plus two movies [*Falling Down* and *The Pursuit of Happyness* [sic]], two books [*The War on Boys* and *Fight Club*], and one documentary [*The Red Pill*]

Course Description

This course examines how our ideas of masculinity are influenced by and represented in US literature from the end of the Second World War to today. We will foreground the many ways in which gender, race, class, and sexuality impact masculinity and its representation in literature, media, and popular culture.

Course Requirements and Assignments:

READING QUIZZES (in class) 5 points each x 22= 110 points

During the first 15 minutes of most classes (anytime we have a reading) we'll do a reading quiz. This type of activity is designed to make sure you have actually read the material before coming to class. Questions will be short and easy (if you've done the reading, of course) mostly about plot general details. *No make-ups possible.*

CONTENT REFLECTIONS (preclass) 5 points each [bring it to class, typed] x 22= 110 points

During most classes (anytime we have a reading) you will hand to me a typed one page answering the following questions:

1. *What are the main points of the reading?*
2. *What was of particular interest to you, and why?*

I'll grade your content reflections while you guys complete your reading quizzes. *No late work will be accepted.*

TAKE-HOME EXAM 1 (at home) 200 points

TAKE-HOME EXAM 2 (at home) 200 points

TAKE-HOME EXAM 3 (at home) 200 points

Take Home Exams will be distributed about a week in advance of the due date. They will consist of several (three or four) essay-type questions. Elaborate as much as you wish.

Grading Scale (of 100 possible points)

A= 93-100

A-= 90-92

B+= 87-89

B= 83-86

B-= 80-82

C+= 77-79

C= 73-76

C-= 70-72

D= Below 70

F= Below 60

Tentative Schedule

Week One

22 January: Introduction to the course.

Week Two

27 January: READING: John Beynon, "What is Masculinity?"

Content Reflection 1

Reading Quiz 1

29 January: READING: John Beynon, "Understanding Masculinities"

Content Reflection 2

Reading Quiz 2

Week Three

3 February: READING: John Beynon, "Masculinities and the Notion of Crisis"

Content Reflection 3

Reading Quiz 3

5 February: READING: Huntington, Samuel P. "The Hispanic Challenge"

Content Reflection 4

Reading Quiz 4

Week Four

10 February: READING: Alcalde, M. Cristina. "What It Means To Be a Man? Violence and Homophobia in Latino Masculinities On and Off Screen."

Content Reflection 5

Reading Quiz 5

12 February: VIEWING: *Falling Down*

Week Five

17 February: VIEWING: *Falling Down*

19 February: READING: Breines, Wini. "The 1950s: Gender and Some Social Science"

Content Reflection 6

Reading Quiz 6

Week Six

24 February: READING: Herb Goldberg, *The Hazards of Being Male: Surviving the Myth of Masculine Privilege*, Chapters 1 and 3 (1975)

Content Reflection 7

Reading Quiz 7

26 February: READING: Herb Goldberg, *The Hazards of Being Male: Surviving the Myth of Masculine Privilege*, Chapters 6 and 12 (1975)

Content Reflection 8

Reading Quiz 8

Week Seven

2 March: READING: Herb Goldberg, *The Hazards of Being Male: Surviving the Myth of Masculine Privilege*, Chapters 6 and 12 (1975)

Content Reflection 9

Reading Quiz 9

TAKE-HOME EXAM 1 due today at class

4 March: READING: Herb Goldberg, *The Hazards of Being Male: Surviving the Myth of Masculine Privilege*, Chapters 6 and 12 (1975)

Content Reflection 10

Reading Quiz 10

Week Eight

9 March: READING: Christina Hoff Sommers' *War Against Boys*

Content Reflection 11

Reading Quiz 11

11 March: READING: Christina Hoff Sommers' *War Against Boys*

Content Reflection 12

Reading Quiz 12

Week Nine

SPRING BREAK. NO CLASSES.

Week Ten

23 March: READING: Bausch, Katharine. "Superflies into Superkillers: Black Masculinity in Film From Blaxploitation to New Black Realism."

Content Reflection 13

Reading Quiz 13

25 March: READING: Kvaran, Kara M. "Super Daddy Issues: Parental Figures, Masculinity, and Superhero Films."

Content Reflection 14

Reading Quiz 14

Week Eleven

30 March: VIEWING: *The Pursuit of Happyness* [sic]

1 April: READING: VIEWING: *The Pursuit of Happyness* [sic]

TAKE-HOME EXAM 2 due today at class

Week Twelve

6 April: READING: Camille Paglia. Excerpts

Content Reflection 15

Reading Quiz 15

8 April: Several Authors. Camille Paglia. Excerpts

Content Reflection 16

Reading Quiz 16

Week Thirteen

13 April: Several Authors. "Negotiating Dominant Masculinity Ideology: Strategies Used by Gay, Bisexual, and Questioning Male Adolescents."

Content Reflection 17

Reading Quiz 17

15 April: Chen, Anthony S. "Lives at the Center of the Periphery of the Center: Chinese American Masculinities and Bargaining with Hegemony"

Content Reflection 18

Reading Quiz 18

Week Fourteen

20 April: READING: "Loose Cannons: White Masculinity and the Vulgar Teen Comedy Film"

Content Reflection 19

Reading Quiz 19

22 April: READING: Chuck Palahniuk, *Fight Club* (1996)

Content Reflection 20

Reading Quiz 20

Week Fifteen

27 April: READING: Chuck Palahniuk, *Fight Club* (1996)

Content Reflection 21

Reading Quiz 21

29 April: READING: Craine, James and Stuart C. Aitken. "Street Fighting: Placing the Crisis of Masculinity in David Fincher's 'Fight Club'"

Content Reflection 22

Reading Quiz 22

Week Sixteen

4 April: VIEWING: The Red Pill.

6 April: VIEWING: The Red Pill

TAKE-HOME EXAM 3 due today at class