



HST 597A: And Hollywood Created Woman

Professor Kathleen Donohue
MW 2:00–3:15 p.m.

This course examines the ways in which mainstream Hollywood has defined “woman” over the course of the twentieth century and it looks at the changing political, economic, social and ideological contexts in which those definitions have taken place. Based on the premise that identities are socially constructed (i.e., they are determined by history, culture and politics rather than universal, timeless, natural forces), the course examines the ways in which women have been portrayed by one of the most popular forms of popular culture—the movies. The films we will be watching were all commercially successful. They were, therefore, not only a reflection of the attitudes of their directors, but, given their popularity, a reflection of what the public wanted to see.

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