This course focuses on cultural analysis of gender representation and gender relations. Using cultural texts and practices in several areas such as children’s culture, sport, music, film and TV, we will question how bodies are privileged and oppressed. Topics include theories of gender as performative masquerade; the relationship between patriarchy and biopower; fashion and modeling industry standards, the beauty myth, the role of fitness and public health fads in mobilizing “body panic and body projects,” and how individuals and groups attempt to negotiate, contrast, and resist toxic cultural messages.

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