In this course we will examine gender and body image as societal constructs, paying close attention to institutional forms of oppression and privilege. Among the topics we will examine are theories of gender as a performative masquerade; the relationship between patriarchy and biopower; fashion and modeling industries; the beauty myth; the role of fitness and public health discourses in mobilizing ‘body panic’ among women and simultaneously enchanting them with ‘body projects’; and how individuals and groups attempt to negotiate, contrast, and resist toxic cultural messages.

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