

Sexism | Cinema Film Series: Spring 2015

Fifty years ago, the term “sexism” was coined. In light of this historical marker, this film series seeks to consider ways in which sexism is embedded, endorsed, and/or challenged in the cinema. Looking back at the past five decades, we selected films featuring women as central protagonists in order to review changing (and/or stagnant?) attitudes toward sex/gender. Together, these films offer an intriguing site for the analysis of diverse representations of race/ethnicity, femininities, and sexualities. All movies begin at 7:00pm and will be followed by 20-30 minutes discussion.

2/11: Foxy Brown

3/11: Fast Times at Ridgemont High

3/25: Fargo

4/23: Girlfight

4/29: Blue is the Warmest Color

Fun Film Facts: ~~~**Female directors**~~~Two movies in this series were directed by women--do you know which ones? (Hint: Not *Fargo*.) Less than 5% of the top 100 box-office domestic releases from 2002-2012 were directed by women. The Best Director Oscar has been awarded since 1929, and in those 86 years, only 4 women have ever been *nominated*, and only one woman has ever won (Kathryn Bigelow for *The Hurt Locker* (2009)).

***Fargo*: Some Potential Questions for Discussion**

- 1)** The world is collapsing around Jerry Lundegaard practically from the beginning of the movie. Is he a sympathetic character? How does gender play a role in the characterization of his predicament?
- 2)** Is there a role reversal in Marge and Norm's relationship? Does Norm (son of a) Gunderson show us "the possibility of a better manhood"?
- 3)** How is the use of physical violence related to the construction of a masculine identity in the movie?
- 4)** What is the significance of Marge being pregnant? How does this influence her representation of femininity?
- 5)** This is a very white movie (in more ways than one). How do issues of race and class intersect with the construction of masculinity (if at all)?

Go to <https://fearlessttu.wordpress.com/> for more resources and discussion!

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