

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

Film Fact: “The Bechdel Test” is named after American cartoonist and MacArthur Award Winner Alison Bechdel, who created the test in 1985. To pass this test, a movie must include: Two named female characters who talk to each other about something other than a man.

Fast Times: Some Potential Questions for Discussion

- 1) Was Stacy's first sexual experience exploitative or is she shown making an active sexual choice? How does the film depict Stacy's sexual growth (and/or stagnation) over the course of the film?
- 2) What stereotypical masculine sexual tropes and stereotypical feminine sexual tropes are reinforced and/or disrupted in this movie?
- 3) Are male and female bodies and sexuality equally displayed and exposed?
- 4) How might we interpret Brad and Spicoli's dreams, especially knowing that the director is a woman? Why do we not see women's sexual fantasies played out in visual ways?
- 5) Does the movie end on a sex positive or sex negative tone?
- 6) How is the interplay of gender, sexuality, class, and race operating in this movie?

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

Visit ttuinternationalfilmseries.tumblr.com to learn more about International Film Series

Sponsored by Alamo Draffhouse, International Film Series, TTU Women's Studies, and Institutional Diversity Equity, and Community Engagement.