Course Objectives:
In this course we will examine theories, issues, questions, and debates arising from the relationship between gender and visual representation. We will approach this topic from several interrelated perspectives: we will investigate the ways in which gender is constructed in and constructs visual representations of men and women as well as how it may inform the production and reception of visual texts. We will give special attention to issues of current interest in media studies, including the new (?) focus on masculinity and the male body, gay representations, the female gaze, formulations of identification and spectatorship, and the reciprocal relationship between the construction of gender and social categories such as race, age, class, and sexuality. Although our discussion will encompass virtually all contemporary visual media—photography, advertising, film, television, video, the web, etc.—we will give special consideration to contemporary narrative forms that seek to problematize or challenge dominant traditions of representation. Readings will reflect both theoretical and applied research.

Course Requirements:
Seminar Paper (15-18 pages double-spaced) on a visual text analyzed in light of an issue related to gender and visual representation that interests you and that engages with the theories and critical perspectives addressed in the class. Each class member will give a brief (10 minute) presentation on the main points of their seminar paper during the last class session.

Reading responses/reflection: Approximately two-page, double-spaced responses in which you briefly summarize and then critically engage with a term, concept or argument from one of the readings for the week. I will assign two of these during the first several weeks of class and you will complete three more that you formulate yourself during the course of the term for a total of five to be completed by the end of week 13.
Class discussion leader: During the term each member of the class will lead class discussion by briefly summarizing the central argument and main points of one of the readings and providing questions and topics for class discussion.

Grading Components:
Seminar Paper and in-class presentation 40%
Reading responses (5 total) 20%
Discussion leader 20%
Participation 20%