REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Access to online articles and other materials on course website.
- Weekly movie viewings.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course explores the representation of women as subjects and objects in the history of American film. Readings from feminist theory and feminist film criticism, as well as from scholars in American studies, will help students analyze questions of gender, race, class, and sexuality when discussing and writing about American film and culture. The latter portion of the course will focus on defining the idea of the “chick flick,” especially through watching adaptations of novels known as “chick lit.”

By the end of successful participation in this course, students should:

- be familiar with basic film techniques
- be able to apply basic terminologies of film analysis
- be comfortable discussing gender stereotypes and models of female empowerment in visual media
- have a basic understanding of feminist film criticism

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

This course will have a predictable rhythm once we get going. On Wednesdays, we will watch a movie. On Thursdays, we will divide up into groups to decide what is important to discuss about the movie (generating at least one study question). On Tuesdays, each group will finish its discussion of the study question(s) it generated and will hand in its notes. In the last 10-15 minutes of class on Tuesday, the instructor will introduce the next film. Then, we repeat the process all over again the next week.

35% Participation (Group Writing)
20% Midterm
35% Comprehensive Final: Consisting of an identification section (matching) and short essay.
10% Movie Reports: You will complete 3 “movie reports.” For this assignment, you will watch a movie outside of class and write a report. Your report should be a very brief analysis of the film based on the topics of discussion in our class. Although you will
probably include some points of summary, I am less interested in a summary of the movie, and more interested in an analysis of the representation of women. You should use some of the terminologies of visual analysis that we are learning in this class and some of the strategies of feminist film criticism. Please keep the length of these reports to two pages (double-spaced) or less.

**GRADING:**

Things that will negatively affect your grade:
- incomplete assignments
- late or missed assignments
- poorly realized assignments
- disrespectful attitude
- excessive absences (over 2 for a T/TH class, over 3 for a M/W/F class)
- coming late to class
- leaving class early
- disrupting class in any other way
- being unprepared for class (you should bring your book to class)
- plagiarism (Plagiarism is committed when you try to pass off someone else’s thoughts or ideas as your own. Any suspicion of plagiarism will be turned over to Student Judicial Affairs and could result in your failure of the course and/or expulsion from the university)

Note: While I do not calculate student grades until the end of the semester once all assignment due dates have passed, I am always open to having a discussion with you about how you are doing in the course.

**Grading Scale:**

A: Work of this quality is superior and represents an achievement normally attained by only a small amount of students.

B: “B” level work is better than adequate and shows strong competence in the subject matter/skill.

C: “C” quality work shows adequate or satisfactory mastery of the subject/skill.

D: “D” level work barely meets the minimum requirements for the course or assignment.

F: Failing grades are reserved for work that falls below the minimum requirements for the course.

**Attendance Grade:**

Attendance is mandatory in this course. University policy is to penalize students when they miss class. I can choose to overlook one or two absences (use them wisely –
save them for an emergency), but after that they will begin to have a negative effect on your final grade. There are no excused absences (unless you are on official university business and have the properly signed paperwork to turn in to me before you miss class). If you come to class late (which you should not make a habit of), you need to see me after class has ended to be sure that I have marked you present. If you miss more than 2 week’s worth of class, you cannot receive a passing grade (this has to do with the way that credit hours are calculated based on the amount of face-to-face time we have each semester).

**Non-Discrimination Policy:**
According to the University Catalog, California State University does not discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, disability, race, color, or national origin. If you have a disability and need reasonable accommodation for equal access to education and services at CSU Chico, you must register with Disability Support Services V/TTY: 898-5959.

**Tentative Schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>8/26</td>
<td>Introduction to Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>8/27</td>
<td>View: <em>All About Eve; Intro Cinematic Techniques</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH</td>
<td>8/28</td>
<td>Groupwork: <em>All About Eve</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>9/2</td>
<td>Groupwork: <em>All About Eve</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>9/3</td>
<td>View: <em>Westward The Women; Intro Feminist Theory</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>TH</td>
<td>9/4</td>
<td>Groupwork: <em>Westward The Women</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>9/9</td>
<td>Groupwork: <em>Westward the Women</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>View: <em>How to Marry a Millionaire</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>TH</td>
<td>9/11</td>
<td>Groupwork: <em>How to Marry a Millionaire</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>9/16</td>
<td>Groupwork: <em>How to Marry a Millionaire</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>9/17</td>
<td>View: <em>Wanda</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>TH</td>
<td>9/18</td>
<td>Groupwork: <em>Wanda</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>9/23</td>
<td>Groupwork: <em>Wanda</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>9/24</td>
<td>View: <em>She’s Gotta Have It</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>TH</td>
<td>9/25</td>
<td>Groupwork: <em>She’s Gotta Have It</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>9/30</td>
<td>Groupwork: <em>She’s Gotta Have It</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>10/1</td>
<td>View: <em>Moonstruck</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>TH</td>
<td>10/2</td>
<td>Groupwork: <em>Moonstruck</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>10/7</td>
<td>Groupwork: <em>Moonstruck</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>10/8</td>
<td>View: <em>Thelma and Louise</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH</td>
<td>10/9</td>
<td>Groupwork: <em>Thelma and Louise</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
T 10/14  Groupwork: *Thelma and Louise*

W 10/15  Review for Midterm

TH 10/16  NO CLASS MEETING: Complete Midterm Online

T 10/21  Class Discussion: Women and Media

W 10/22  View: *Bridges of Madison County*

TH 10/23  Groupwork: *Bridges of Madison County*

T 10/28  Groupwork: *Bridges of Madison County*

W 10/29  View: *Waiting to Exhale*

TH 10/30  Groupwork: *Waiting to Exhale*

T 11/4   Groupwork: *Waiting to Exhale*

W 11/5   View: *The Mirror Has Two Faces*; Intro to Discussion of *The Mirror Has Two Faces*

TH 11/6   Groupwork: *The Mirror Has Two Faces*

T 11/11  NO CLASS: Veteran’s Day

W 11/12  View: *Someone Like You*; **AT LEAST 1 MOVIE REPORT DUE BY TODAY**

TH 11/13  Groupwork: *Someone Like You*

T 11/18  Groupwork: *Someone Like You*

W 11/19  View: *Real Women Have Curves*; Intro to Discussion of *Real Women Have Curves*

TH 11/20  Groupwork: *Real Women Have Curves*

M 11/24 – F 11/28 NO CLASSES: Thanksgiving Break

T 12/2   Class Discussion: Women and Media, Cont.

W 12/3   View: *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*

TH 12/4   Groupwork: *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*

T 12/9   Groupwork: *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*

W 12/10  Review for final

TH 12/11  Review for final

TH 12/17  Final Exam to be completed and submitted via online course site before 12/17 Thursday at 11:50 a.m.; **ALL MOVIE REPORTS DUE AT THIS TIME**