

SEX AND THE AMERICAN EMPIRE: JOURNALISM AND FRAMES OF WAR

GNDR_ST 390/JOUR 390/AF_AM_ST 380/AMER_ST 310



This course will be an intensive study in understanding the relationship between American journalism and the U.S. military in creating an American empire. By focusing on how the U.S. military has segregated service members by race, sexuality, gender, and gender identity—and on how U.S. media has covered the military—students will study how identity roles have been formed by both the military and the media in American society.

Steven Thrasher

M/W 10:00–11:20am
Fisk 311

Readings will include primary sources, works of journalism, and scholarship. Topics covered will include the histories of LGBTQ rights; “pinkwashing” and “homonationalism”; “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”; racial segregation; the development of the condom; government management of HIV/AIDS; subjectivity and objectivity; and, essentialism. The course is intended for journalism majors and non-majors alike, and will be centered on helping both analyze news media critically in order to better understand how race, gender, sexuality and American identity are constructed.