

WMNST 497: Bad Mothers
Presentation of cultural object assignment

For this presentation, you will choose a cultural object (this can be a meme, an ad, a commercial, a video game, a TV episode, a song, a GIF, etc.) that provides a particular depiction of motherhood, and you will present it to the class. On your assigned date, you will present at the beginning of the class period and will provide us with your reading of the object. What is the message that is being communicated about motherhood? How is that message presented? Is this message subversive? Why is / is not that so? You should draw on the readings we have done in class, as well as the discussions both in class and on Canvas to inform your presentation. Basically, you should tell us why this object is important and why we should be paying attention (even if – especially if – it does not seem important at all). You may want to end the presentation by asking a few open-ended questions to the class that relate to the materials for that day.

The presentation should last 5-7 minutes, and we will have a class discussion for about 3-5 minutes afterward. If you will be discussing any video or media content that lasts longer than 1 minute (if it is a YouTube skit or a TV episode, for example), please send a link to it at least 24 hours in advance so that we can all watch it without it taking time away from your presentation.

This assignment is worth 15% of your grade. The grade will be based on how well you present the object, as well as how well you tie it into the discussions we have been having in class. If you have any questions about the assignment (when choosing an object or when composing your presentation), please do not hesitate to contact me.