The Emergence of Celebrity Culture: History, Performance, Fame

*FIG 14 • Fall 2019*

main class instructor: **Margaret Butler**

9 credits

**MAIN CLASS**

Interdisciplinary Courses (L&S) 102

The Emergence of Celebrity Culture: History, Performance, Fame

**LINKED CLASS**

Gender and Women’s Studies 102

Gender, Women, and Society in Global Perspective

**LINKED CLASS**

Anthropology 104

Cultural Anthropology and Human Diversity

What does it mean to be famous? Where did the idea of celebrity come from, and how did it work in different times and places throughout history? How are our views of famous people shaped by the stories that have been told about them? This FIG examines celebrity and soloistic pursuits in a range of artistic contexts, focusing on music and theater in Europe and America and the solo performer, from around 1600 to around 1900—though students will be encouraged to pursue independent projects outside this chronological frame according to their interests. We will investigate celebrity as a historical construct and as a form of identity that people have performed in different ways and for different reasons. We will explore the cultural processes that have privileged and rewarded individual achievement throughout history. More broadly, we will examine the interdependent relationship between performers, audiences, and creative personnel that have shaped this history, and understand the interconnectedness of various forms of art and culture through the implications of non-artistic concerns on artists’ development. The other classes in the FIG will deepen our exploration of this topic.

**Gender and Women’s Studies 102: “Gender, Women, and Society in Global Perspective”**

— This introductory class provides you with an understanding of the essential concepts and methods of feminist inquiry, as well as a wide range of global women’s and gender issues. When the class concludes you should be able to use the basic tools of feminist inquiry to explore how power relations based on gender, class, race, sexuality, location, and ability impact the lives of others in local, national, and global contexts. In addition, you should be able to use these tools to examine their own experiences and social situatedness.

**Anthropology 104: “Cultural Anthropology and Human Diversity”**

— This class is an introduction to cultural anthropology. It provides a comparative cross-cultural consideration of social organization, economics, politics, language, religion, ecology, gender, and cultural change.
Enrolled in a FIG and you change your mind?

FIG classes are designed to be taken together. When you enroll in a FIG, you are signed up for these classes as a whole group, not as separate classes.

**Dropping one FIG class means ending your enrollment in all of the classes in the FIG.**

So, here’s what you should know if you want to drop the FIG:

- You can drop all the classes on your own at enroll.wisc.edu. Any non-FIG class will not be affected.
- After classes begin, if you need to drop a single class within the FIG, please contact Kari Fernholz (see below) to review your situation. If necessary, she will provide the required authorization to drop the class.
- **Wednesday, September 11, 2019** is the last day to drop a class without it appearing on your college transcript.
- **Friday, September 13, 2019** is the last day to add a class without first getting department permission.

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**Main Class**
Interdisciplinary Courses (L&S) 102

**The Emergence of Celebrity Culture: History, Performance, Fame**

**SEM 1**: TR 2:30–3:45
- Humanities
- Elementary
- credits: 3
- class number: **61443**

**Linked Class**
Gender and Women’s Studies 102

**Gender, Women, and Society in Global Perspective**

**LEC 1**: MW 12:05–12:55 +
**DIS 302**: R 12:05–12:55
- Social Science
- Elementary
- credits: 3
- class number: **51172**

**Linked Class**
Anthropology 104

**Cultural Anthropology and Human Diversity**

**LEC 3**: TR 9:55–10:45 +
**DIS 312**: W 9:55–10:45
- Ethnic Studies
- Social Science
- Elementary
- credits: 3
- class number: **44827**