

ITA 375- Masculinity/ Masculinities Discussion Questions

“Introduction: The Study of Masculinity” (p. 12-20)

1. Why study masculinity? List at least 3 reasons mentioned by the author (Todd Reeser). Is masculinity ever stable? Include your reflections in addition to the author's. (p. 12-16)
2. Why study masculinity ‘in theory’? List the two main reasons mentioned by Reeser. Do you agree with his remarks? Should masculinity be studied ‘in theory’? Why or why not? (p. 16-20)

“Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUcvIJmCVcl>

1. Who is Laura Mulvey? What is her contribution to cinema studies?
2. How is ‘infantile scopophilia’ defined within Mulvey’s theoretical framework?
3. Is cinema and the act of film viewing inherently voyeuristic? Do you agree with Mulvey that the spectator nearly always identifies with and derives pleasure from the ‘male gaze’ (i.e. [onscreen] women are passive objects/images to be gazed upon by active [onscreen] men)? Put simply, is the camera’s gaze implicitly male? Can you think of historical and more recent examples that support Mulvey’s claims (consider cartoons, animations, television shows, popular/ auteur films)? Can you think of any exceptions that complicate and/or overturn Mulvey’s claims?