Having gained a global foothold in popular culture, reality TV offers to explicate, regulate, and manipulate the social scripts we live by. Studying reality television can often be an exercise in frustration, not only because it is everywhere (produced in every major media market across the globe) and nowhere (archived in no specific television library), but also because its contents mark it as a low-status cultural form, the ‘bottom feeder’ of the media world. Yet the ephemeral qualities of reality television, paired with its stigmatized status, offer important information in the study of gender, since gender itself engages with the power relations that exist between the strong and the subordinate, the high and the low, the worthy and the worthless. As such, this class investigates reality television as a vehicle of and for gender articulations, both in terms of how it locates (literally) representations of gender and sexuality and in the way that reality television is itself a gendered and gendering phenomenon that remaps the contours of hierarchy and value. In the class we will read several new essays that engage with the meanings of race, sex, sexuality, and identity as depicted across a wide variety of reality TV, from both the US and worldwide and there will also be opportunities for collaboration and student presentations.