









This book explores popular culture representations of gender, offering a rich and accessible discussion of masculinities and femininities in 21st-century popular media. It brings together contributors from various European countries to investigate the workings of gender in contemporary pop culture products in a brave, original, and rigorous way. This volume is both an academic proposal and an exercise of commitment to a serious analysis of some of the media that influence us most in our everyday lives. Representation matters, and the position we take as viewers or consumers during reception matters even more.

Exploring the pedagogical power of the monstrous, this collection of new essays describes innovative teaching strategies that use our cultural fascination with monsters to enhance learning in high school and college courses. The contributors discuss the implications of inviting fearsome creatures into the classroom, showing how they work to create compelling narratives and provide students a framework for analyzing history, culture, and everyday life. Essays explore ways of using the monstrous to teach literature, film, philosophy, theater, art history, religion, foreign language, and other subjects. Some sample syllabi, assignments, and class materials are provided.

The first look at the philosophical issues behind Charlaine Harris's New York Times bestsellers *The Southern Vampire Mysteries* and the *True Blood* television series *Teeming* with complex, mythical characters in the shape of vampires, telepaths, shapeshifters, and the like, *True Blood*, the popular HBO series adapted from Charlaine Harris's bestselling *The Southern Vampire Mysteries*, has a rich collection of themes to explore, from sex and romance to bigotry and violence to death and immortality. The goings-on in the mythical town of Bon Temps, Louisiana, where vampires satiate their blood lust and openly commingle with ordinary humans, present no shortages of juicy metaphysical morsels to sink your teeth into. Now *True Blood* and *Philosophy* calls on the minds of some of history's great thinkers to perform some philosophical bloodletting on such topics as Sookie and the metaphysics of mindreading; Maryann and sacrificial religion; werewolves, shapeshifters and personal identity; vampire politics, evil, desire, and much more. The first book to explore the philosophical issues and themes behind the *True Blood* novels and television series *Adds a new dimension to your understanding of True Blood characters and themes* The perfect companion to the start of the third season on HBO and the release of the second season on DVD *Smart and entertaining, True Blood and Philosophy provides food—or blood—for thought, and a fun, new way to look at the series.*

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