



## **The Sociology of Miley Cyrus: Race, Class, Gender, and Media**

Summer Session I  
T/W/R 1-3:30 PM  
Professor Carolyn Chernoff

From Disney tween to twerking machine, Miley Cyrus has grown up in the public eye, trying on and discarding very different identities onscreen and off. She provides rich examples for analyzing aspects of intersectional identities and media representation, including:

- The rise of the Disney Princess
- Gender stratification and the hyper-commodification of childhood
- Transitions to adulthood
- What happens to Disney stars as they age (see Justin Timberlake, Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera, and more)
- Allies and appropriation
- Uses of culture across race, class, and gender
- Bisexuality, queerness, and the female body

Ongoing media frenzy focused on Miley Cyrus's public image, music, and body highlights the ways in which intersectional identities are shaped by pop culture and mass media. In this special topics course, we will explore core issues of intersectionality theory, looking at race, class, and gender, as well as taking a feminist critique of media, using Miley as a lens through which to explore sociological thinking about identity, entertainment, media, and fame.