

# PHILOSOPHY AND FILM SERIES

3.15pm Wednesday, Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016 in Claudia Cohen 402

GRACE BOEY

## SEXISM AND VIOLENCE IN WESTWORLD: GLORIFICATION OR COMMENTARY?

(Westworld, Episode 1, dir. Michael Crichton, USA 2016)



In HBO's new Western sci-fi Westworld, hyper-realistic androids in a theme park are subject to the whims of high-paying human guests. Episode 1 depicts violent rape, mass murder, almost-necrophilia, and lots of nudity - all this presumably in an attempt to show how inhumane humans might get if they could act without fear of retaliation. Although these depictions function as a commentary on the ugliness of human nature, they also quite plausibly glorify the acts that are the subjects of this commentary. How does a show strike the right balance? Does Westworld do it? The screening of this episode will be followed by a discussion of these questions.

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