

Fall 2011  
920:570:01  
M 9:50-12:30

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Office hours: W 4-5pm and by appt

## **Sociology of the Body**

The body is at once material and symbolic, an object of regulation and control and a site of contentious political struggle. It exists at the intersection of multiple discourses (e.g., occupational, reproductive, technoscientific, feminist, leisure, sport, and sexual). In this seminar, we will draw on an interdisciplinary literature and use a range of theoretical traditions to consider ways in which the body is constituted by these discourses. For example, what is “natural” about the body? How are distinctions made between the normal and the pathological? Are bodies subordinate to the mind? How are bodies commodified? How are bodies categorized and constituted by discourses of race, class, gender and sexuality?

### **Course Logistics**

Students must fulfill the following requirements:

- 1) This is a seminar course. Attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to show up to every class having read all required material. The quality of our discussions depends on your full participation.
- 2) Over the course of the semester, each student will be expected to write a 1-2 page memo responding to each week’s readings. (single-space is fine.) These comments will be uploaded to the appropriate folder on sakai the day before class (Sunday) by noon, so that everyone has time to read each other’s comments by Monday morning. Comments may be informal, but they must be a *critical* response. Memos will be graded as check/check plus/check minus. You can take four exemptions from writing these memos. If you choose to take an exemption, please let me know by email.

These memos should help you focus your ideas in a way that can contribute to our collective conversation during class time. In general, each memo should include: a) a brief summary of the main idea of the readings and how these claims were supported; b) a synthetic analysis of some dimension of the course readings that you found compelling and warrants further discussion; and c) two to three well-crafted questions for the class to consider as a group. These memos ought to compare readings within that particular week, but you may also bring compare that week’s readings to themes and theories discussed earlier in the semester. This is also a good opportunity to raise questions and concerns about the substance of the readings. Finally, these memos are a great opportunity to develop a killer set of notes.

- 3) Each student will be responsible for helping me lead at least one weekly class discussion. Sign-up sheets will be passed around during the first week of class. As a codiscussant, your job is to introduce critically the material and to come up with a few (3-5) substantive questions in the form of a one-page handout (to be electronically

distributed to the rest of the group by 9 pm on the day before class) to get the discussion rolling. Such questions may target what you consider the key issue/problematic raised by the author(s) in question, a shortcoming in the argument/evidence, a puzzling claim, broader implications, exciting/provocative comparisons, and so forth. You will meet with me 15 minutes before class to go over our approach to discussion for the day.

4) Students taking the course for credit are expected to submit a 17-20 page paper on a topic related to this course. The paper can be analytical, critically reflecting on a substantive issue related to the sociology of the body or you may choose to write a research proposal, drawing on theoretical perspectives and existing empirical work to identify an interesting and, as of yet, unsolved empirical question.

Your topic must be approved in advance. Approval will be granted via a 2-3 page memo that describes your project, complete with a brief bibliography by **October 26<sup>th</sup>**. At that time, please make an appointment with me, so that we can discuss the paper in greater detail. Of course, I'm happy to discuss this with you in advance. **Final paper is due on December 16th.** Late papers are strongly discouraged.

5) Students will present their research in progress in class on December 12th. These presentations are both an opportunity to share your work with the class and to receive feedback on your project.

### **Grade Allocation**

Class participation 25%

Memos 25%

Presentation 10%

Final Paper 40%

### **Required Texts**

Available at the Rutgers University Bookstore

Rene Almeling. 2011. *Sex Cells: The Medical Market for Eggs and Sperm*. University of California Press.

Alice Dreger. 2004. *One of Us: Conjoined Twins and the Future of the Normal*. Harvard University Press.

Arthur Frank. 1997. *The Wounded Storyteller*. University of Chicago Press.

Adriana Petryna. 2002. *Life Exposed: Biological Citizens after Chernobyl*. Princeton University Press.

Loic Wacquant. 2003. *Body & Soul: Notebooks of an Apprentice Boxer*. Oxford University Press.

All other readings are available on sakai.

## Course Schedule

### **Week One: Thursday, September 8th**

#### ***Bringing in the Body***

Chris Shilling. 2007. Sociology and the Body: Classical Traditions and New Agendas. *Sociological Review*. 55(1). 1-18.

### **Week Two: Monday, September 12th**

#### ***Phenomenology and the Lived Body***

Merleau-Ponty, *Phenomenology of Perception*. Selections.

Iris Marion Young, "Throwing Like a Girl" and "Embodied Pregnancy." *On Female Body Experience: Throwing Like a Girl and Other Essays*.

S. Kay Toombs. 1995. "The Lived Experience of Disability." *Human Studies*. 18, 1: 9-23.

Elizabeth Grosz. 1994. "Lived Bodies" in *Volatile Bodies: Toward a Corporeal Feminism*. Pp.86-111.

#### *Recommended:*

Nick Crossley, Merleau-Ponty, the Elusive Body and Carnal Sociology. *Body & Society*. vol. 1, no. 1, pp. 43-63, Mar 1995

Drew Leder. 1990. *The Absent Body*. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press.

### **Week Three: Monday, September 19th**

#### ***Habitus and the Social Body***

Marcel Mauss. 1935/1973. "Techniques of the Body." *Economy and Society* 2: 70-88.

Pierre Bourdieu. 1984. The Habitus and the Space of Lifestyles in *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste*.

Matthew Desmond. 2006. Becoming a Firefighter. *Ethnography*. 7(4). 387-421.

Philippe Bourgois and Jeff Schonberg. 2007. Intimate Apartheid: Ethnic Dimensions of Habitus among Heroin Injectors. *Ethnography*. 8(1): 7-31.

#### *Recommended:*

Loic Wacquant. 1995. Pugs at Work: Bodily Capital and Bodily Labor Among Professional Boxers. *Body and Society* 1-1 (March): 65-94.

### **Week Four: Monday, September 26th**

#### ***Normal & Pathological***

Foucault, Michel. 1984. "Docile Bodies," in *The Foucault Reader*. Edited by Paul

Rabinow. New York: Pantheon, pp. 179-213.

Margaret Shildrik. 2005. "Unreformed Bodies: Normative Anxiety and the Denial of Pleasure." *Women's Studies*. 34: 327-244.

Alice Dreger. 2004. *One of Us: Conjoined Twins and the Future of the Normal*. Harvard University Press. Chapters 1-3, 5

*Recommended:*

"The Means of Correct Training," and "Panopticism," in *The Foucault Reader*. Edited by Paul Rabinow. New York: Pantheon, pp. 179-213.

**Week Five: Monday, October 3rd**

***Medicalization***

Peter Conrad. 2007. "The Shifting Engines of Medicalization." In *The Medicalization of Society*.

Jennifer R. Fishman. 2004. Manufacturing Desire: The Commodification of Female Sexual Dysfunction. *Social Studies of Science*. 34(2): 187-218.

Jeremy A. Greene. 2005. "Releasing the Flood Waters: Diuril and the Reshaping of Hypertension." *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*. 79: 749-794.

Elizabeth M. Armstrong. 1998. Diagnosing Moral Disorder: The Evolution of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. *Social Science & Medicine*.

Kristen Barker. 2008. "Electronic Support Groups, Patient-Consumers, and Medicalization: The Case of Contested Illness." *Journal of Health & Social Behavior*. 49: 20-36.

*Recommended:*

Adele Clarke, Janet Shim, Laura Mamo, Jennifer Ruth Fosket, and Jennifer Fishman. 2003. "Biomedicalization: Technoscientific Transformation of Health, Illness and US Biomedicine." *American Sociological Review*. 68(2): 161-194.

Nikolas Rose. 2001. "The Politics of Life Itself." *Theory, Culture & Society*. 18(1). 1-30.

**Week Six: Monday, October 10th**

***Are Bodies There? Grappling with the biosocial***

Ian Hacking. 1986. "Making Up People." Reproduced in *Beyond the Body Proper*, edited by Margaret Lock and Judith Farquhar.

Judith Butler. 1993. "Bodies That Matter." Reproduced in *Beyond the Body Proper*, edited by Margaret Lock and Judith Farquhar.

Bruno Latour. 1999. "Do You Believe in Reality?" Reproduced in *Beyond the Body Proper*, edited by Margaret Lock and Judith Farquhar.

Michel Foucault. "Truth and Power." *The Foucault Reader*. Paul Rabinow, editor.

Anne Fausto-Sterling. 2005. "The Bare Bones of Sex." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*. 30(2). Pp. 1491-1527.

**Week Seven: Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>**

***The Social Construction of Sex***

Anne Fausto-Sterling. 2000. "The Five Sexes, Revisited" *The Sciences* (July/August) pp. 18-23.

Sharon Preves. 2005. *Intersex & Identity*. Rutgers University Press. Chapters 2 and 3.

Thomas Laqueur. 1986. "Orgasm, Generation, and the Politics of Reproductive Biology." *Representations*. 14: 1-41.

Jean Elson. 2003. "Hormonal Hierarchy: Hysterectomy and Stratified Stigma." *Gender & Society* 17:750-770.

Recommended:

Londa Schiebinger, 1986. "Skeletons in the Closet: The First Illustrations of the Female Skeleton in Eighteenth-Century Anatomy." *Representations*. (14), pp. 42-82.

**Week Eight: Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup>**

***Race in science***

American Anthropological Association Statement on "Race" (May 17, 1998)

Joan Fujimura, Troy Duster and Ramya Rajagopalan. 2008. "Introduction: Race, Genetics and Disease: Questions of Evidence, Matters of Consequence." *Social Studies of Science*. 38: 643-656.

Anne Fausto-Sterling. 2008. "The Bare Bones of Race." *Social Studies of Science*. 38: 657-694.

Jonathan Kahn. 2008. "Exploiting Race in Drug Development: BiDil's Interim Model of Pharmacogenomics." *Social Studies of Science*. 38: 737-58.

Alondra Nelson. 2008. "Bio Science: Genetic Genealogy Testing and the Pursuit of African Ancestry." *Social Studies of Science* 38:759-783.

Steven Epstein. 2007. Chapter 7 in *Inclusion: The Politics of Difference in Medical Research*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

**Week Nine: Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>**

***Somaticization: Do Bodies Speak?***

Arthur Frank. 1997. *The Wounded Storyteller*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapters 1,2, 4,5, 6 and 7, plus pp. 56-64.

Arthur Kleinman and Joan Kleinman. 1985. *Somatization: Interconnections among Chinese Culture, Depressive Meanings and the Experience of Pain*. In A. Kleinman and B. Good, Eds: *Culture and Depression*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 429-490.

*Recommended:*

Byron J. Good, Mary-Jo DelVecchio Good, Robert Moradi. 1985. "The Interpretation of Iranian Depressive Illness and Dysphoric Affect. *Culture and Depression; Studies in the Anthropology and Cross-Cultural Psychiatry of Affect and Disorder*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

**Week Ten: Monday, November 7th**

***Technologies and the Body***

Donna Haraway, "A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist-Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century", in *Simians, Cyborgs and Women*: 149-81.

Sarah S. Jain, 1999, "The Prosthetic Imagination: Enabling and Disabling the Prosthesis Trope" *Body & Society*. 24(1). 31-54.

Laura Mamo, 2007, "Negotiating Conception: Lesbians' Hybrid-Technological Practices", *Science, Technology and Human Values* 32: 369-93

Vivian Sobchack. 2006. "A Leg to Stand On: Prosthetics, Metaphor and Materiality." *The Prosthetic Imagination: From a Posthuman Present to a Biocultural Future*. Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**Week Eleven: Monday, November 14th**

***Commodifying Bodies***

Rene Almeling. 2011. *Sex Cells: The Medical Market for Eggs and Sperm*. University of California Press. Selections.

Arjun Appadurai. 1986. Introduction: Commodities and the Politics of Value. *The Social Life of Things: Commodities in Cultural Perspective*. Cambridge University Press.

**Week Twelve: Monday, November 28th**

***Biological Citizenship***

Michel Foucault, Part IV, *History of Sexuality*. vol. 1

Adriana Petryna. 2002. *Life Exposed: Biological Citizens after Chernobyl*. Princeton University Press. Selections.

*Recommended:*

Nikolas Rose. 2007. "Biological Citizenship" in *The Politics of Life Itself: Biomedicine, Power, and Subjectivity in the Twenty-First Century*. Princeton University Press.

**Week Thirteen: Monday, December 5th**

***Embodied Fieldwork***

Judith Okely. 2007. Fieldwork Embodied, *Sociological Review*. 55(s1). 65-79.

Kris Paap. 2006. *Working Construction: Why Working Class Men Put Themselves And the Labor Movement In Harm's Way*. Cornell University Press. Selections.

Loic Wacquant. 2003. *Body & Soul*. Oxford University Press, Section 1

*Recommended:*

Jennifer A. Reich. 2003. "Pregnant with Possibility: Reflections on Embodiment, Access, and Inclusion in Field Research." *Qualitative Sociology*. 26: 351-367.

Jean E. Jackson. "I Am A Fieldnote": Fieldnotes as a Symbol of Professional Identity." *Fieldnotes: The Making of Anthropology*. Ithaca. Cornell University Press. Pp. 3-33.

**Week Fourteen: Monday, December 12th**

***Presentations***

**Final paper due on December 16<sup>th</sup>.**