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043 Davison

Spring 2014
01:920:422:04
M/W 2:15-3:35 pm
Classroom: 118 Hickman

SOCIOLOGY OF THE BODY & HEALTH

We are accustomed to thinking about our bodies in fixed biological terms. But everything about the body is constructed by social and cultural forces, including its shape, its health and even how it moves. In this seminar, we will draw on an interdisciplinary literature to understand how bodies are at once material and symbolic, an object of regulation and control, and a site of contentious political struggle. We will explore questions like: What is “natural” about the body? How do we decide which bodies are “normal” and which need medical intervention? How does the social world change the ways that we move within our bodies? Is it possible to distinguish between the mind and the body, or are they the same thing? How are bodies categorized and constituted by discourses of race, class, gender and sexuality? How are bodies an object of regulation, surveillance, and social and political control?

REQUIRED READINGS

I have required articles that are available on the course website (sakai). These articles are identified below with an asterisk.

COURSE LOGISTICS

REQUIRED BOOKS

The following book is available from the Rutgers Book Store and on reserve in the Douglass Campus library:

Alice Dreger. 2005. *One of Us: Conjoined Twins and the Future of Normal*. Harvard University Press. Cambridge University Press.

Articles on sakai are indicated with an asterisk *

CLASS FORMAT

This is a seminar course. The quality of our discussions depends on your **full** participation in class. **All** reading must be completed before the class for which it is assigned.

Students must fulfill the following requirements:

- 1) **Attendance and Participation – 10% of grade**

The quality of this class depends on your full participation. You may miss up to three classes for any reason. Any additional absences will affect your grade, unless you have a documented and approved excuse.

2) **Response Memos - 30% of grade**

Each student is responsible for submitting **ten response “memos”** over the course of the semester. These 1-2 page memos (double-spaced) respond to a class reading. Comments must be thoughtful and they must provide a critical response. They are due **by 9am** on the day that we discuss the reading, and they will not be accepted after. You should not summarize the arguments of the book or article. Rather you should contend with the author's arguments, and give your own critical opinion. I don't mean: "I like X, I don't like Y," but something more analytic. What do you think of the author's argument? Do you agree, disagree? Why? You should also include two to three well-crafted questions for the class to consider as a group. You may also 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. Each memo will be given a grade from 1-10. **Remember, these memos constitute a significant portion of your grade.**

You may choose to respond to whichever ten readings you please, but **6 memos must be completed by spring break.**

Please upload these responses in the “assignment” section of sakai.

3) **Short Paper – 20% of grade**

You will write a 5-7 page paper (double-spaced) on the ways in which the movie Avatar presents the body. You may address one of the following questions: Do the bodies in the fantasy world presented in Avatar embody or transcend race and ethnicity? Are the Na'vi cyborgs? How are prostheses used in Avatar? More details will be discussed in class. This assignment is **due April 10th.**

4) **Research paper – 40% of grade (broken down into stages)**

You will write a 10 page paper (double-spaced) on a research topic that pertains to the sociology of the body. You will clear the topic with me ahead of time by providing me with a 1 paragraph summary of the topic, complete with 5 references by February 26. (This will be worth 5% of your grade). After submitting this memo, you are required to make an appointment with me to discuss your paper.

A five page draft of your paper is due to me on **April 2nd**. This draft will be worth 15% of your grade.

Everyone will be required to present the results from their paper during the last two weeks of class. Each presentation should last no longer than 7-10 minutes. This presentation will be worth 5% of your grade.

The total paper will contain *at least* 10 academic references. **The final paper is due May 10th**. This paper will be worth 15% of your grade.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

I follow the Rutgers University's policy on academic integrity. You can familiarize yourself with this policy at this website: <http://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and I am obligated to report such conduct and violations of this policy to the Undergraduate Director of the Sociology Department and the Dean of your colleague.

CLASS CONDUCT AND GROUND RULES

The Department of Sociology encourages the free exchange of ideas in a safe, supportive, and productive classroom environment. To facilitate such an environment, students and faculty must act with mutual respect and common courtesy. Thus, behavior that distracts students and faculty is not acceptable. Such behavior includes cell phone use, surfing the internet, checking email, text messaging, listening to music, reading newspapers, leaving and returning, leaving early without permission, discourteous remarks, and other behaviors specified by individual instructors. Courteous expression of disagreement with the ideas of the instructor or fellow students is, of course, permitted and strongly encouraged.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

The Rutgers Sociology Department strives to create an environment that supports and affirms **diversity** in all manifestations, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, social class, disability status, region/country of origin, and political orientation. We also celebrate **diversity** of theoretical and methodological perspectives among our faculty and students and seek to create an atmosphere of respect and mutual dialogue. We have zero tolerance for violations of these principles and have instituted clear and respectful procedures for responding to such grievances.

CLASS SCHEDULE

January 22 - Introduction

Living in the Body

January 27 – *Arthur Frank, *The Body's Problem with Illness*

January 29 – *Iris B. Young, *Throwing Like a Girl*.

February 3 – *Sandra L. Bartky, *Foucault, Femininity, and the Modernization of Patriarchal Power*

Embodied Knowledge and Habitus

February 5 - *Matthew Desmond. 2006. *Becoming a Firefighter*.

February 10 – *Library Session, meet in Douglass Library with Triveni Kuchi

February 12 – *Philippe Bourgois and Jeff Schonberg. Intimate Apartheid: Ethnic dimensions of habitus among heroin injectors

Medicalized Bodies

February 17 – *Peter Conrad, The Shifting Engines of Medicalization, JHSB

February 19– *Jennifer Fishman, Manufacturing Desire: The Commodification of Female Sexual Dysfunction, SSS

Monstrous Bodies

February 24 –Dreger, One of Us, Chapters 1 & 2

February 26 – Dreger. One of Us, Chapters 3 & 5

Submit One Paragraph Summary of Research Paper

Cyborg Theory

March 3 – *Donna Haraway: A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist-Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century.

March 5 – *Sarah S. Jain, The Prosthetic Imagination: Enabling and Disabling the Prosthesis Trope

Five of your response papers should be submitted by now.

Racialized Bodies

March 10 – *Dorothy Roberts, “Separating Racial Science from Science”

March 12– *Patricia Hill Collins, “Get Your Freak On”: Sex, Babies and Images of Femininity.

March 15 – 23 Spring Break: Woohoo!

March 24 – Submit Avatar paper

Veiled bodies

March 24 – *Haideh Moghissi, “The Veil as a Tool of Empowerment?,” pp. 42-47 in Feminism and Islamic Fundamentalism. New York, NY: Zed Books.

Jen’nan G. Read and John P. Bartkowski, 2000. **“To Veil or Not to Veil? A Case Study of Identity Negotiation among Muslim Women Living in Austin, Texas.”* Gender & Society 14(3): 395-417.

Sporting Bodies

March 26 –*Tyson Smith, Producing Gendered Spectacle: Male Wrestlers Managing the Male Gaze

Eating Disorders

March 31 – Samantha Kwan. 2009. “Framing the Fat Body: Contested Meanings Between Government, Activists, and Industry.” *Sociological Inquiry* 79(1): 25-50.

C.J Pascoe and Natalie Boero. 2011, “Pro-Anorexia Communities and Online Interaction:

Body work

April 2 -- Miliann Kang, 2003, “The Managed Hand: The Commercialization of Bodies and Emotions in Korean Immigrant–Owned Nail Salons” *Gender & Society* 17(6): 820-839.

Submit 5 page draft of research paper

Reproductive Bodies

April 7 - *Emily Martin, “The Romance of the Egg and the Sperm”

April 9 – *Barbara Katz Rothman, *Laboring Now: Current Cultural Constructions of Pregnancy, Birth, and Mothering*

The Body Politics

April 14 - *Brückner, Hannah and Peter Bearman. 2005. "After the promise: The STD consequences of adolescent virginity pledges."

April 16 -- *Casper, Monica J. and Laura M. Carpenter. 2008. "Sex, drugs, and politics: the HPV vaccine for cervical cancer." *Sociology of Health & Illness* 30:886-899.

Presentations

April 21 - Guest speaker – Lisa Smith, Coordinator for Domestic Violence Services, Rutgers Department of Sexual Assault Services and Crime Victim Assistance on Domestic Violence

April 23 - Presentations

April 28 - Presentations

April 30 – Presentations

May 5 – Presentations

Final Papers due: May 10, 2014