THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
4405G-001 SOCIOLOGY OF THE BODY

TERM: Winter Term 2014
INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Rita A. Gardiner
(e: rgardin2@uwo.ca)
CLASS TIME & LOCATION: Mondays 9:30 am - 12:30 pm; SSC 5406
OFFICE HOURS & LOCATION: Mondays 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm; SSC 5424

REQUIRED TEXTS:

These books are available from the University Bookstore. Please note that the Shilling text is the third edition. Copies of these texts are also on reserve in the Weldon library. In addition, other listed readings will be uploaded to the OWL site for this course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will examine the body from a variety of socio-historical and theoretical perspectives. Readings will consider key debates from a multidisciplinary perspective, which includes sociology, sociological theory, cultural studies, feminist thought and queer theory. By considering the body from a variety of micro and macro perspectives, we will question the ways in which notions of identity interconnect with questions of class, race, disability, sexuality and gender. This questioning, in turn, allows for debate and discussion about wider issues. This course will be run as a discussion-based seminar with a web-discussion component.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES
Through course readings, discussion and other in-class activities, students will be able to:

- Articulate the ways in which debates concerning the body are important sociological concerns.
- Demonstrate how social, cultural and historical factors affect ideas of the body.
- Evaluate and explicate how notions of the body influence ideas of subjectivity.
- Apply theoretical concepts related to the body to issues of everyday life.
- Examine the diverse ways in which bodies matter to critical, social thought.
COURSE EVALUATION

1. Presentation 20%

Breakdown of mark: 5% verbal presentation; 15% written version

On the first day of class, students will sign up to do a class presentation. Student presentations will take place during weeks 2-11. The presentation will be a critical analysis of some aspect of that week’s readings as it relates to course themes. These presentations offer an opportunity for students to gain public speaking skills and to lead the class in a question and answer session. Their intended purpose is to spark debate and discussion. These will be short presentations, approximately 15-20 minutes in length, followed by a question and answer session, which the student will lead.

A written version of this presentation, four pages, (approx. 1,000 words) must be handed in during class on the week following the presentation.

The purpose of this assignment is to enable each student to articulate the ways in which debates concerning the body are important sociological concerns. Students will be marked on how effectively they presented their material, both verbally and in written form, and how they were able to elicit discussion through thoughtful questions.

2. Online Posts 10%

During weeks 2-11, students will post to the OWL website. Each post must be done in a different week for a total of ten posts. Five posts should be in the form of a question; the other five should be a response to another student’s question. Posts should be no longer than one paragraph in length. Students are expected to read the posts prior to class. Thus, each student needs to post their question/answer no later than 4:00 p.m. on the day before class. As well, those of you who are posting questions may wish to do so earlier so that others have an opportunity to think about your question.

3. Class participation 15%

Students will be expected to read assigned materials prior to each class, and be prepared to participate in class, and to discuss specific readings in small groups. As this is a seminar-based course, it is important that each student is willing to offer ideas and insights that relate to the course themes. Class participation will be judged on how much each student is willing to engage with the material we cover in the course, and to engage with one another. Active listening is a key component; I will silently deduct marks from students who choose to text or use social media rather than participate in class discussion.

4. Essay Proposal for Research Paper 10% Due: Week 9

Students must submit an outline of the proposed term paper, two-three pages. The proposal can be in point-form; it should include a bibliography listing at least four outside scholarly sources that the student intends to use in their final essay, as well as two readings from the course. The essay proposal must be handed to the professor on week nine during class. Essay topics will be posted in week five. In addition, students can propose their own essay question provided they have gained permission from the instructor before handing in the essay proposal. There will be an essay workshop in Week 12. Please bring your essay proposal to class.
5. **Research Paper** 45%

The major term paper (3,000 words, 12 pages approx), worth 45% of the final grade, is due to be handed in on the final day of class. This is a final deadline after which students will lose 2% per day (Saturday and Sunday included.) **Students who want comments on their final paper must advise me prior to handing in their paper.**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MARK BREAKDOWN</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentation: 20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>(5% oral presentation; 15% written presentation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online participation: 10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar Discussion: 15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay Proposal: 10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper: 45%</td>
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**WEEK BY WEEK COURSE OVERVIEW**

**Week One**

Introduction to the course and course objectives

Sign up for class presentations


**Week Two – Body Work**


**Week Three – The Body and Sociology**


**Week Four – Natural Discourses and Bodily Affects**


**Week Five – The Body and Social Construction**


**Week Six - Bodies and Physical Capital**

**Required Reading:**


**Recommended:**


**WEEK SEVEN – SPRING BREAK**

**Week Eight - The Body and Social Identity**

**Required Reading:**


**Recommended:**

Week Nine – Bodies on Display

**Required Reading:**


**Week 10 - Vulnerable Bodies**

**Required Reading:**


**Recommended Reading:**


**Week 11 – Queering Bodies**


**Week 12 - Life and Death: Bodies and Technology**


**Week 13 – Bodies in Space**


**Week 14 ** FINAL ESSAY DUE
DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES

Please read these policies carefully.

Statements on Academic Offences and Plagiarism Checking

Academic Offences
Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism
Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage, from another author they must acknowledge their debt both by quotation marks and in footnotes. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see the University Scholastic Offence Policy).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (www.turnitin.com).

Missed Exams and Late Assignments
Make-up exams will be granted with approved documentation only. If you have a conflict with one of the exam dates, it is your responsibility to discuss it with the Academic Counseling office at least one week before the regularly scheduled exam and provide documentation of the conflict. If approved, you will be allowed to schedule a make-up exam. If you miss an exam date or the due date for an assignment due to illness or for any other unforeseen reason, you must provide notification of and documentation for the reasons for your circumstances to your Academic Counselor within 48 hours. If your problem is medical in nature, you should be seen by your doctor on the date of the exam or on the date the assignment is due. If your Academic Counselor agrees that your reasons are legitimate and are supported by your medical doctor’s documentation, you will be allowed to write a makeup exam or hand in your assignment at a later date.

Compassionate Grounds: Serious Illness of a Family Member: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a medical certificate from the family member’s physician to your home faculty’s Academic Counseling office.

In Case of a Death: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a copy of the newspaper notice, death certificate or documentation provided by the funeral director to your home faculty’s Academic Counseling office.

Support Services: Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.
Grade Guidelines

The Department of Sociology has grade distribution guidelines that all instructors are required to follow. For Sociology courses at the 4000 level: A’s are not to exceed B’s, and class averages must be in the range of 73%–78%.

Class Attendance Requirements (for 3000 and 4000-level courses)
With the exception of legitimate medical/personal excuses (documentation required to be submitted) students are expected to attend at least 80% of the class meetings for this course. A passing grade in the course cannot be obtained without meeting this attendance requirement.

NOTE: Unless you have either the requisites from this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.
Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.