KINESIOLOGY 580, Section 001

GRADUATE SEMINAR ON BODY, EXERCISE AND SOCIETY

Time: Thursdays, 9.30am – 12pm.
Location: War Memorial Gymnasium 100

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Description of the course

Human bodies span an infinite plurality of cultural classifications and historical discourses. Studies of the body and embodiment have become increasingly central to discussions of sport and physical culture, technology, film, media, performance and life in general. The body - how we exercise, what we eat, how we present ourselves – is both a physical entity and a medium of culture, a powerful symbolic form. It can be seen as a surface on which the ideas and power relations of a culture are inscribed and reinforced. The body also operates as a metaphor for culture – since an ‘imagination’ of body morphology (the normal body, the disabled body, the toned and fit body, the athletic body, the obese body) has provided a blueprint for diagnosis and prescription, as well as visions of group solidarity, ‘healthy, active living’ and athletic performance. Not just a text, the body (as Foucault and Bourdieu have argued) is also a practical, direct locus of control – a disciplined or docile body. Through the organization and regulation of time, space and the movements of our daily lives, our bodies are trained, shaped and disciplined with the stamp of prevailing historical forms of selfhood, desire, masculinity and femininity. In this course we will examine the ways in which the body has been fashioned in modern society to express the self through modes of exercise, sport and physical culture.
Seminar topics will include

- The ‘making’ of the modern body
- Understanding embodied practices
- Exercise, sport and the medicalization of the female body
- Masculinity, muscularity and the maintenance of gender boundaries
- Sports medicine: athletic performance, sex testing and the enhanced body
- Normalizing the body: ideologies around body shape, size and diet
- The markings of race and ethnicity on the body
- Disability, technology and the Paralympics
- Sport, exercise and the aging body
- Space and place - sites of sport and exercise
- The politics of aesthetics: dance, gymnastics and physical culture
- Physical cultural studies

Assigned readings

There are 3 articles assigned for each class and students should be ready to lead the group in discussion of at least one of them each week during class discussion.

Course assessment

This is a seminar course which includes reading, writing assignments, presentations and group discussion. Each student will be expected to familiarize themselves with the selected readings, to take a leadership role in class discussion on several of the course topics, and to submit a final paper.
which investigates in depth a particular research topic related to the broad themes of the course.

i) Participation, leadership activities and contributions to discussion 25%

ii) 4 (2 page) Article critiques selected from the required seminar readings 20%

iii) Class mini-conference, presentation of topic selected for final paper 15%

iv) Final paper (max 20 pages including bibliography), due April 26). 40%

COURSE OUTLINE (tentative)

January 9  INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE:

FIT- Episodes in the History of the Body

January 16  UNDERSTANDING EMBODIED PRACTICES

Introducing some theoretical and methodological approaches to understanding embodied practices.

READINGS

Jennifer Hargreaves and Patricia Vertinsky, Chapter 1, Introduction, Physical Culture, Power and the Body (Routledge, 2007).


(Extra article for background reading)

January 23  EXERCISE, SPORT AND THE MEDICALIZATION OF THE BODY

DVD - 100% Woman

READINGS


January 30  MUSCULARITY, MASCULINITY AND THE MAINTENANCE OF GENDER BOUNDARIES

DVD - Million Dollar Baby

READINGS


February 6  **THE MARKINGS OF RACE AND ETHNICITY ON THE BODY**

DVD – *Race: The Floating Signifier*

**READINGs**


February 13  **NORMALIZING THE BODY; IDEOLOGIES AROUND BODY SHAPE AND SIZE**

**READINGs**


http://jhmas.oxfordjournals.org/content/63/2/139

Or

http://bod.sagepub.com/content/18/3-4/72

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February 17-21  MID TERM BREAK
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February 27  **SHIFTING BOUNDARIES OF SPORTS MEDICINE: ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE, SEX TESTING AND THE ENHANCED BODY**

DVD - *The Body Athletic/ Bigger, Faster, Stronger*

**READINGS**


http://irs.sagepub.com/content/44/2-3/265.full.pdf

March 6  **DISABILITY, TECHNOLOGY AND THE PARALYMPICS**

DVD - *Murderball/ Paralympic Documentary/Sledhead*

**READINGS**

http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09687590701841232#.Us3Nfp5dWoM

http://eth.sagepub.com/content/9/4/499


March 13 **THE INFLUENCE OF SPACE AND PLACE: SITES OF SPORT AND EXERCISE**

DVD – *Asahi Baseball*

**READINGS**


http://journals.humankinetics.com/ssi-back-issues/SSJVolume19Issue2June/TheDisciplineofSpaceinaJapaneseFitnessClub

March 20 **EXERCISE, SPORT AND THE AGING BODY**

**DVD – Age is no barrier**

http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/01490400500484081#.Us3PfJ5dWoM

http://journals.cambridge.org/action/search?searchType=CITEADVANCE&journals=ASO&volume=32&issue=07&page=1106&author=Tulle&year=2012


March 27 **THE POLITICS OF SPORT, PHYSICAL CULTURE AND DANCE**

**READINGS**


http://bod.sagepub.com/content/18/1/151.full

April 3  PRESENTATIONS – Mini-Conference