

KINESIOLOGY 580, Section 001

GRADUATE SEMINAR ON PHYSICAL CULTURE, SPORT AND THE BODY

Dates: January – April, 2018
Time: Monday, 1-4pm (or TBA according to class needs)
Location: Ponderosa Annex C, 102.

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Description of the course

Studies of the body and embodiment are 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, the aging body) has provided a blueprint for diagnosis and prescription, as well as visions of group solidarity, ‘healthy, active living’ and athletic performance and enhancement. Not just a text, the body is also a 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 sporting and active bodies are trained, shaped and disciplined with the stamp of prevailing historical forms of selfhood, desire, masculinity and femininity. In this seminar discussion 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 be selected from :

- INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL CULTURAL STUDIES AND EMBODIMENT
- EXERCISE, SPORT AND THE MEDICALIZATION OF THE FEMALE BODY
- MASCULINITY, MUSCULARITY AND THE MAINTENANCE OF GENDER BOUNDARIES
- THE NORMAL BODY: IDEOLOGIES AROUND BODY SHAPE, SIZE AND APPEARANCE
- DIGITAL BODIES: SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
- THE ENHANCED BODY: , SEX TESTING AND ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE
- BODIES AT RISK : EXPLORING NOTIONS OF RISK AND INJURY IN SPORT AND EXERCISE
- EXPLORING SITES OF ACTIVE EMBODIMENT: GYMNASIUM, STADIUM, AND THE OUTDOORS
- GLOBALIZATION AND PHYSICAL CULTURE: GYMNASTICS YOGA, MARTIAL ARTS
- THE IMPACT OF RACE AND ETHNICITY ON SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
- SPORT, EXERCISE AND THE AGING BODY
- EXAMINING CHILDREN’S PLAY AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY: SCHOOL, PARENTS AND THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT.

Class Format and Procedures

This class consists of one 3 hour class per week. The class format will include lectures, discussions, student presentations and guest speakers. The course is intended to be a collaborative effort hence student participation in all aspects of the course in an important component. The course focuses on the enhancement of presentational skills and critical discussions leading to the production of a research paper focused on a student selected topic in embodiment, physical culture, sport and the body.

Specific Learning Objectives:

Students in this course will:

- Learn to think critically and creatively about physical culture, sport and embodied practices and to conduct self-directed learning projects
- Develop an understanding of the historical and current role of scientific and medical beliefs about men's, women's and children's bodies in shaping sporting and physical culture practices.
- Learn to understand and evaluate social and cultural issues around risk, injury and violence in sport and physical activity
- Explore a variety of theories and methods helpful in examining cultural and social aspects of embodied practices in sport and physical culture.
- Have the opportunity to practice and enhance oral and written communication skills during class discussions and writing exercises.
- Develop a research paper for potential publication

Course materials

A course pack of selected reading materials will be made available to students and/or all materials will be available on the library website.

Course assessment

This is a seminar course which includes reading articles and chapters, 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 selected course topics, and to develop a final research paper which investigates in depth a particular research topic related to personal interest and the broad themes of the course.

- i) Participation, and contributions to discussion, including leading selected seminar discussions 25%
- ii) Course assignments , including book and article reviews and annotated bibliography of the selected topic for final paper 25%
- iii) Formal class presentation of topic selected for final paper 10%
- iv) Final paper (max 20 pages including bibliography) 40%