KINESIOLOGY 580, Section 001

GRADUATE SEMINAR ON PHYSICAL CULTURE, SPORT AND THE BODY

Dates: January – April, 2018
Time: Monday, 1-4pm
Location: Ponderosa Annex C, 102.
Instructor Patricia Vertinsky
Professor, Kinesiology
Office: Ponderosa Annex C, 102
Tel: 604-822-6235
e-mail: patricia.vertinsky@ubc.ca

Course Description
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 and play sport, 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 bodies are trained, shaped and disciplined with the stamp of prevailing 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 include

- Introduction to physical culture and embodiment
- Exercise, sport and the medicalization of the female body
- The normal body: ideologies around body shape, size and appearance
- Racializing the body: race and ethnicity in sport and physical activity
- The muscular body: masculinity, muscularity and the maintenance of gender boundaries
- Digital bodies: sport and physical activity
• The enhanced body: athletic performance, sex testing and drugs
• Sites of embodiment: gymnasium, stadium, the built environment and the outdoors

Potential Additional Topics:
• Digital bodies, sport & physical activity
• Globalization & physical cultures: wushu, yoga, self defense, martial arts
• The sporting body at risk
• Embodied boundaries: disability, sport & physical activity

Evaluation
The course is designed as a research and discussion based class. Grades will be based upon a combination of participation, course assignments, book reviews, group work and a final research paper.

In order to excel in this course students will need to critically engage with the required course readings as well as attend and participate in the group seminars. In addition to the graded assignments (see below) 20% of the grade will be based on in-class participation. Throughout the semester I will be asking you to participate in a range of activities such as reflections on readings, peer review and speaking for several minutes about a reading or issue. These activities, in conjunction with your general level of contribution to discussions will be used to formulate your grade.

Course Assessment

Assessment 1: General Seminar Participation - 20%

Details Individual active participation is required throughout the semester. Marks for participation will be obtained through attendance, reflection commentaries, group discussions, and engagement in class activities.

Due Date Throughout the semester
Assessment 2: Reflections and Peer Discussion - 20%

Details In this course you will be asked to write frequently, as writing, especially critical reflection helps you to engage with the material at a deeper level. Throughout the semester, in weeks 3, 5, 9 and 10 you will be asked to come to class with a reflection related to the week’s required reading. The reflection should be no more than 1-2 pages double spaced, and should attempt to engage with the material at a deeper/broader level than a simple summary. The first 20 minutes of these classes will be dedicated to exchanging and peer reviewing your reflections.

Due Date Within weeks 3, 5, 9 and 10

Assessment 3: Midterm Book Review - 20%

Details Each student may select a book relevant to their particular research interests (in discussion with the instructor) and develop a potentially publishable review. We will discuss how to produce good reviews, and follow up with the best reviews to seek appropriate journal outlets for publication.

Due Date February 26th

Assessment 4: Final Paper 40% (including 10% for presentation of paper)

Details Students may select to write a final paper that investigates in depth a particular research topic related to their interests and the broad themes of the course, with the potential for submission to a journal, max 20 pages including references / or a research grant proposal suitable, for example, for SSHRC or IOC committee grants. Each student will have the opportunity to present highlights from their paper or research project in the final 2 weeks of class.

Due Date Presentation within weeks 11 & 12
Paper TBD (following the last class)

Grading
This course follows UBC’s Standard grading practices:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>76-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>72-75</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>68-71</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>64-67</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>55-59</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-54</td>
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<td>F (Fail)</td>
<td>0-49</td>
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*Marks will be deducted for late assignments; typically 5% per day for each 24-hour period past the due date and time that they are submitted. In the case of extenuating circumstance, students are required to email the instructor as soon as possible. The instructor will make arrangements in a case-by-case manner.*
## KIN580 Tentative Course Schedule & Required Readings

All **required readings** are available on Library Course Reserve (available through Canvas) or from the instructor. On **Canvas** there is a variety of selected additional and optional readings and resources that are simply suggested for students to engage with according to their own research interests and background.

### Week 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, January 8</th>
<th>We will discuss the focus of the course, its scope, expectations and evaluation procedures – and have a group discussion of the required reading.</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="https://www.dur.ac.uk/writingacrossboundaries/writingonwriting/arthurwfrank/">https://www.dur.ac.uk/writingacrossboundaries/writingonwriting/arthurwfrank/</a></td>
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### Week 2: PHYSICAL CULTURE AND EMBODIMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, January 15</th>
<th>Introducing some theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of embodiment and physical cultural practices.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Potential Media:</strong></td>
<td>FIT- Episodes in the History of the Body</td>
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### Week 3: EXERCISE, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, & THE MEDICALIZATION OF THE FEMALE BODY
### Monday, January 22

**Class description**
- #1 - Reflection papers and peer reviews
- Class lecture on exercise and medicalization
- Group discussion on medicalization and the sporting/active body.

**Required Readings:**

**Additional Optional Readings:**

**Potential Media:**
Crossfit and pregnancy

### Week 4: WHAT’S A NORMAL BODY? IDEOLOGIES AROUND BODY SIZE AND SHAPE

### Monday, January 29

**Class description**
- Lecture on normalcy and ideologies around body size and shape followed by class discussion on the *Mismeasure of Man*.
- Guest Lecture and Discussion: Caitlin O’Reilly, PhD to discuss Fat Stigma

**Required Readings:**
**Additional Optional Readings:**


**Reference for Guest Lecture:**

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**Week 5: MARKING RACE AND ETHNICITY ON THE SPORTING BODY**

**Monday, February 5**

**Class description**
- #2 Reflection papers and peer reviews
- Lecture on intersectionality of race and gender in sport and physical culture
- Group and class discussion around selected topics, e.g. the Jew’s body, Muslim women and sport, black athlete activism …

**Required Readings:**


**Additional Optional Readings:**


**Potential Media:**
Race : The Floating Signifier

[https://thesocietypages.org/engagingsports/about/](https://thesocietypages.org/engagingsports/about/)

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**Week 6: NO CLASS: FAMILY DAY – University Closed**

Book review assistance and Individual consultations during this week
### Week 7: READING WEEK
February 19 – 23, 2018

### Week 8: SPORTS MEDICINE: SEX TESTING, DRUGS AND THE ATHLETIC BODY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, February 26th</th>
<th>Guest Lecture &amp; Discussion:</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Victoria Felkar to discuss sex testing and drugs</td>
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**Required Readings:**


**Additional Optional Readings:**


### Week 9: AGING AND THE SPORTING BODY

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Monday, March 5</th>
<th>#3 Reflection papers and peer reviews</th>
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**Required readings**


**REFLECTION #3 TBA**
Week 10: SITES OF EMBODIMENT:  SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, March 12</th>
<th>Class description</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lecture on thinking through ‘places and spaces’ of sport: sites of sport and embodiment.</td>
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<td>Visit by Harley Banack</td>
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#4 Individual selection of sites for investigation and class discussion: Parkour, gymnasiums, stadiums, outdoors, golf courses, swimming pools, tennis courts, beach, Olympic sites, mountains, playgrounds, city streets.

[https://murmurlandstudios.net/home/mls-pedagogy-and-practice/](https://murmurlandstudios.net/home/mls-pedagogy-and-practice/)


**Required Reading:**

**Additional Optional Readings:**


D.R. Bassett, Encouraging Physical Activity and Health though active transportation, *Kinesiology Review*, 1,1 (2012):.


[https://murmurlandstudios.net/home/mls-pedagogy-and-practice/](https://murmurlandstudios.net/home/mls-pedagogy-and-practice/)
Week 11 & 12: MINI CONFERENCE ON SPORT AND EMBODIED PRACTICES

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, March 19</td>
<td>Individual presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, March 26</td>
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Week 13: NO CLASS – EASTER (University Closed)

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 4</td>
<td>Individual presentations or consultations regarding term paper or research proposal</td>
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<td>Friday, April 6</td>
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Potential Additional Topics:

**DIGITAL BODIES, SPORT & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**


**GLOBALIZATION & PHYSICAL CULTURES: WUSHU, YOGA, SELF DEFENCE, MARTIAL ARTS**


**THE SPORTING BODY AT RISK**


**EMBODIED**

- Leslie Schwarz and Brian Westermeyer, “Cyborg Anxiety: Oscar
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>BOUNDARIES:</strong> DISABILITY, SPORT &amp; PHYSICAL ACTIVITY</th>
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