

WOME 2012 WDE: Booties, Breasts and Babies: Body Politics
Department of Gender & Women's Studies, Lakehead University
Winter 2022

Instruction: Zoom
Day/Time: Tuesday/Thursday 10:00-11:30am

Instructor: Dr. Jen Chisholm
Office: Ryan Building, Room 2011

PLEASE NOTE: In line with current COVID-19 public health guidelines, I am working remotely. The best way to connect is to send an email and we can schedule a time to chat virtually.

Office Hours: Mondays @ 2-3pm

PLEASE NOTE: In line with current COVID-19 public health guidelines, office hours will be held virtually, via Zoom:

<https://lakeheadu.zoom.us/j/92236465163?pwd=VzJPTGdvRWVuZEMrbU5EN3VqK2c2QT09>

Meeting ID: 922 3646 5163
Passcode: 725864

Follow the above link, any Monday between 2pm -3pm to join the waiting room. I encourage you to log on if you have any questions or concerns, about course material, assignments, topics or discussions.

Email: jen.chisholm@lakeheadu.ca

Course Description

In this course we consider the ways in which gendered bodies are sites of political and social engagement and expression. We will situate “the body” as a site through which institutional, personal and disciplinary power are enacted. Through practices of modification, bodies can be made and remade to suit individual and/or social needs or desires. Through practices of surveillance, in both public and private spaces bodies can be controlled and contorted to produce particular outcomes. With the aid of feminist theories of the body we will analyze and critique practices that produce, alter and transform individual bodies, as well as legal and state-sanctioned control of/over bodies. Particular attention will be paid to practices of regulation such as reproductive rights, transgender rights and forms of resistance like the Black Lives Matter movement. While investigating the body as a site of personal power, we will explore methods of body modification including (but not limited to) tattooing, cosmetic surgery, gender transitions; and birth control. In this course we situate the body

as a site of political, ethical and feminist potential, while also addressing the history of colonial, patriarchal control over “the body”.

Learning Objectives

This course will enable students to:

- Recognize the multiple ways bodies can be produced, altered and transformed
- Identify current and historical debates regarding body politics
- Evaluate and develop political, ethical and feminist arguments relating to body politics, gender norms and body modifications
- Understand the impacts of surveillance, body policing, and public scrutiny on diverse (intersectional) bodies

COURSE FORMAT: Online/Zoom delivery, and a D2L course website

This is an online course with both synchronous and asynchronous elements (meaning, some elements of the course will take place during “regular” course time, online via Zoom, while other parts of the course will be done on your own schedule). Our classes are scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00-11:30am.

On Tuesdays, you should view the lecture and materials posted on our course website **on your own**. This is known as the “flipped classroom” model: lectures will be posted *in advance* of our Tuesday class time (10am), for you to access and watch at your convenience.

On Thursdays, we will meet virtually, online via Zoom, to discuss the readings and lectures and to participate in interactive learning activities. To join our classes on Thursdays, follow the meeting links provided on our course website. Please come to Thursday classes having read the materials and viewed the lecture, and ready to discuss.

Required Texts

Kannen, Victoria. (2021). *Gendered Bodies and Public Scrutiny: Women’s Stories of Staring, Strangers and Fierce Resistance*. Women’s Press: Toronto.

The textbook can be purchased directly here: <https://www.canadianscholars.ca/books/gendered-bodies-and-public-scrutiny> or, through the Lakehead Bookstore. All other readings will be made available to students through our course D2L page.

Grading Scheme

All students will complete the following:

Curriculum Contract	5% (Due: Jan. 21 st , 2022)
In-class Assignments (5 x 10%)	50% (scheduled throughout term)
Take Home Exam	20% (Due: April 14 th , 2022)

Students can choose ONE option from the following:

In-class Assignments (5 x 5%) 25% (scheduled throughout term)

OR

Research Essay (6-8 pgs) 25% (Due: March 3rd, 2022)

OR

Body Story & Illustration (6-8 pgs) 25% (Due: March 24th, 2022)

GENERAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

A Note about COVID-19

This has been an especially challenging time, with many of us struggling with the transition to online learning. I recognize that some of you might be juggling working and learning from home, as well as helping children, siblings or others in your family complete their own schooling. This can be very challenging, and we can't always anticipate what might come up. Your best practice for success is to be honest with yourself about what you need and what you can handle, and then to reach out and communicate with me. More than anything, I want you to learn, and be successful in this course, so I am open to working with you to find the best path for success. Below is a list of available (free) resources for students who would benefit from more sustained support or accommodations.

Resources Available to Students:

Student Success Centre: Additional help regarding academic matters can be found at the Student Success Centre located in SC 0008 or phone 343-8018 or online at - <http://academicadvising.lakeheadu.ca/>

o Due to COVID-19 all Student Success Centre services will be delivered remotely until further notice. Please continue to book appointments and register for events. A distance attendance option will be available. If you have any question or need our assistance, please email us at ssc@lakeheadu.ca or call us at 807-343-8018.

Student Accessibility Services: For assistance with accommodations for a disability, please visit Student Accessibility Services located in SC 0003 or phone 343-8047 or online at - <http://learningassistance.lakeheadu.ca/>.

o They are also connecting with students via email, telephone and video conference. To book a new appointment via telephone or video conference, email sas@lakeheadu.ca for Thunder Bay Campus and oraccess@lakeheadu.ca for the Orillia Campus.

Student Health and Counselling Centre: For help with personal and/or medical issues, please visit the Student Health and Counselling Centre located in the University Centre 1007 (across from Security) or phone 343-8361 or online at - <http://healthservices.lakeheadu.ca/>.

o Virtual and/or telephone counselling options are also available at:
<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/students/wellness-recreation/student-health-and-wellness/about/covid-19-updates>

GENERAL COURSE GUIDELINES

Zoom Etiquette:

During class, students are asked to turn off their microphones to avoid any interference with sound/video quality and continuity. During class discussions, or when asking a question or making a comment, students will be asked to “unmute” and are strongly encouraged to turn on your camera on. Learning online can feel really isolating, so being able to see and respond to each other in non-verbal ways is especially important.

All course discussions and communications are expected to be respectful and professional, whether they occur on camera or in the Zoom chat. Sexist, racist, homophobic, transphobic, and/or discriminatory language will not be tolerated. Bullying or harassment of fellow students will not be tolerated. Everyone deserves a safe and respectful environment in which to learn.

Email Etiquette:

All correspondence should be polite, respectful and professional. Email inquiries must include:

- a subject line indicating the course name and/or number
- a salutation, (i.e. “hello”, “dear”, “To”, etc.)
- a detailed question, or polite request
- a signature (i.e. your name).

Emails that do not follow this format will not be answered.

Every effort will be made to respond to emails within 72 hours (excluding weekends). If you have not received a response after 72 hours, please send a polite reminder as sometimes emails can get lost in the shuffle!

A Note on Submitting Assignments:

All assignments must be submitted electronically, under the “Assignment” tab on our course D2L site. The best format to submit your assignments is as a .doc or .pdf file.

You should receive confirmation that your assignment has successfully uploaded. If you do not receive confirmation, it is a sign that something may have gone wrong with the submission. If this happens, please try again to submit, or contact Dr. Chisholm to ensure that your assignment properly uploaded. Improper uploading will not be accepted as an excuse for late papers.

Academic Accommodations:

Some students may benefit from receiving academic accommodation, due to a disability (physical, learning or otherwise), illness or disruption. Please reach out to Student Accessibility Services:

<http://learningassistance.lakeheadu.ca/> and speak with an advisor. Your SAS advisor will work with you to develop a plan, which will then be communicated to Dr. Chisholm. You need not disclose any personal or medical information to Dr. Chisholm, or any of your professors. SAS will work with you to maintain privacy and confidentiality.

Everyone has the right to an accessible education, and all approved accommodations will be honoured, no questions asked.

Late Policy:

Assignments received after the due date (where the student does not have an approved accommodation) will be penalized 5% per day. Requests for extensions MUST be made prior to the due date and will ONLY be given in extenuating circumstances and may require approval through Student Accessibility Services.

Extensions will not be granted where good time management skills could have avoided the problem; i.e. extensions will not be granted for students who have a number of assignments due at the same time during the semester or for students who have decided to take an overload of classes this semester.

Style and grammar:

Marks are not directly deducted for poor writing style and grammar. However, you simply cannot achieve a good grade if the paper is difficult to read and the argument difficult to discern. It is essential to proofread.

Referencing:

Assignments must be entirely your own work. Failure to provide adequate references constitutes plagiarism. If the exact words or phrases of another author are used they must be in quotation marks with an accompanying reference. Material that is paraphrased – that is, an idea from another author but put into your own words – must also be accompanied by a properly formatted citation. Please use appropriate style (either MLA, APA or Chicago) in a consistent manner throughout the paper.

A great resource for help with citations:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/resources.html

References are essential and have four purposes: (1) they indicate the source of the “quotations,” (2) acknowledge the interpretations and ideas of others, (3) provide authority for facts which might be challenged or result from the research of others, and (4) point to other sources or interpretations of the same topic. In general, references acknowledge the use of another person’s ideas and are essential in avoiding plagiarism.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Presenting an idea, words or an exact phrase of another author as your own work constitutes plagiarism. All students are required to know what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it.

If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism you can consult the Lakehead University calendar available online:

<http://calendar.lakeheadu.ca/current/contents/regulations/univeregsIXacdishon.html>

All cases of plagiarism will be dealt with in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures approved by Senate and the Board of Governors. Other instances of Academic Dishonesty, including but not limited to double submission, purchasing of assignments (either online or from another student on campus), or copying of assignments will also be dealt with in accordance with the University regulations on Academic Dishonesty. Students may obtain a copy of the “Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures” from the Office of the Registrar for more information.

Please do your own work. Your ideas and contributions are valuable. See each assignment as an opportunity to build your writing and analysis skills.

ASSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Note: Assignments will also be discussed in class.

Curriculum Contract (5%)

DUE: January, 21st, 2022

At the start of term, students will select from a series of assignment options and complete a curriculum contract. The contract will include a breakdown of chosen assignments, and answers to a couple of questions designed to help students evaluate which option best suits your learning style.

In-Class Assignments (5 x 10% = 50%)

DUE: Throughout term

Throughout the term, students will complete a series of 5 in-class assignments based on weekly course material. The structure of the assignments will vary, but typically involve an activity, creative exercise or film clip analysis, and a series of reflection questions asking students to link the assigned activity to course readings and concepts. For these assignments, students will be divided into smaller groups (of 4 or 5). Each group will submit one assignment at the end of the designated class. The dates for the in-class assignments are as follows:

Thursday, Jan. 27th, 2022

Thursday, Feb. 10th, 2022

Thursday, Mar. 3rd, 2022

Thursday, Mar. 17th, 2022

Thursday, Mar. 31st, 2022

Please note that in order to receive a mark for the in-class assignments, you MUST attend class on the dates listed above. Alternative arrangements will only be made for students who can provide proof of accommodation (from Student Accessibility Services)

Take Home Exam (20%)

DUE: April 14th, 2022

On March 31st, 2022 students will be given a list of questions, and asked to write two short essays (750 words each) in response to the questions provided.

Students will be given an option of questions to choose from - for instance, you'll be asked to choose 2 from a list of 4. Each question will require that you synthesize material from throughout the course, and will focus on the broader concepts we've addressed throughout the term. You will be asked to make direct reference to course readings and concepts. You are encouraged to also relate your answers to other material we've looked at (films, clips, articles, reflect/connect posts from your classmates, etc.) though you are not required to do any outside research.

You will be given TWO weeks to complete the take home exam. The final day to submit the exam will be April 14th, 2022.

For the remaining 25% of the grade for the course, students may choose ONE from the following options:

In-Class Assignments (5 x 5% = 25%): Throughout the term, students will complete a series of short, in-class assignments. These reflective assignments will relate to the in-class activity on the dates listed below. Typically you'll be asked to write notes or reflections individually and submit at the end of class. Please note that the dates for these in-class assignments differ from those listed above.

Thursday, Jan. 20th, 2022

Thursday, Feb. 3rd, 2022

Thursday, Feb. 17th, 2022

Thursday, Mar. 10th, 2022

Thursday, Mar. 24th, 2022

*This assignment option is well suited for students who prioritize class attendance and preparation, and/or who struggle with formal writing assignments (I.e. essays) or time management outside of class.

Research Essay (25% - DUE: March 3rd, 2022): In 6-8 pages, double spaced, students will write a research paper based on a chosen course theme or concept, which can also include related topics that were not necessarily covered in class.

The essay should include reference to at least TWO course readings, and at least FOUR academic sources not included in course readings. Your essay should include a thesis statement and supporting evidence, including full and proper citations.

*This assignment option is well suited for students who have strong ideas and opinions, enjoy research and appreciate traditional, predictable assignment structure.

Body Story & Illustration (25% - DUE: March 24th, 2022): For this option, students will create their own “body story” like those highlighted in the course text *Gendered Bodies and Public Scrutiny*.

This assignment consists of two parts: a creative piece, which could be an illustration, collage, craft or art work created as a self-portrait; and a written piece. The written portion should be 6-7 pages double-spaced, and engage with the questions posed by Victoria Kannen on page 137 of *Gendered Bodies and Public Scrutiny*, with reference to at least TWO other course readings. Don’t worry if you’re not “an artist”! This assignment will be evaluated based on the quality of your engagement with the ideas, not your artistic “product”.

*This assignment option is well suited for students who are creative, artistic or self-reflexive, and who thrive with self-directed and expressive work.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Week 1: What is Body Politics?

Reading:

Hunter College Women’s and Gender Studies Collective & Simalchik, J. (2017). “Gender the Politics of the Body” In Women’s Realities, Women’s Choices: An Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies. Hunter College Women’s and Gender Studies Collective & Simalchik, J. (Eds.). Oxford University Press: New York. pgs. 108-121.

Tuesday – January 11th, 2022 – Syllabus Overview

Thursday – January 13th, 2022 – Lecture + in class activity example

Week 2: Awed/Odd Bodies

Reading:

Kannen, Chapter one: Inspiring Awe, Feeling Odd

Tuesday – January 18th, 2022 – Lecture posted

Thursday – January 20th, 2022 – Class Discussion (*5% option)

Week 3: Awed and Odd “Online”

Reading:

Bailey et al. (2013). Negotiating with Gender Stereotypes on Social Networking Sites: From “Bicycle Face” to Facebook. *Journal of Communication Inquiry*. Vol. 37(2). Pgs. 91-112.

Tuesday – January 25th, 2022 – Lecture posted

Thursday – January 27th, 2022 - In class activity 10%

Week 4: Bodies in Public

Reading:

Kannen, Chapter 2: Well-Meaning Strangers: Identities, Stares and Hair

Tuesday – February 1st, 2022 – Lecture posted

Thursday – February 3rd, 2022 – Class Discussion (*5% option)

Week 5: Racialized Bodies in Public

Reading:

Kwan, S. (2010). Navigating Public Spaces: Gender, Race, and Body Privilege in Everyday Life. *Feminist Formations*. Vol. 22(2). Pgs. 144-166.

Tuesday – February 8th, 2022 – Lecture posted

Thursday – February 10th, 2022 - In class activity 10%

Week 6: Public Bodies/Private Parts

Reading:

Kannen, Chapter 3: Our Bodies as Private and Public (Sexualized) Spaces

Tuesday – February 15th, 2022 – Lecture posted

Thursday – February 17th, 2022 – Class Discussion (*5% option)

READING WEEK NO CLASSES: FEB. 21ST-25TH, 2022

Week 7: Public Bodies/Private Parts

Reading:

Bartky, S. (1990). "Foucault, Femininity and Patriarchal Power". In Diamond, I. & Quinby, L. (Eds.). *Feminism and Foucault: Reflections on Resistance*. Boston: Northeastern University Press.

Tuesday – March 1st, 2022 – Lecture posted

Thursday – March 3rd, 2022 - In class activity 10%

Week 8: Exotic Bodies: Tokenism and Exoticism

Reading:

Kannen, Chapter 4: Underestimated and Overdetermined: Shame, Tokenism, Exoticism and Fierce Resistance

Tuesday – March 8th, 2022 – Lecture posted

Thursday – March 10th, 2022 – Class Discussion (*5% option)

Week 9: Exotic Bodies: Shame and Resistance

Reading:

Clare, E. (2010). Resisting Shame: Making Our Bodies Home. *Seattle Journal for Social Justice*. Vol. 8(2). Pgs. 455-465.

Tuesday – March 15th, 2022 – Lecture posted

Thursday – March 17th, 2022 - In class activity 10%

Week 10: Bodily "Excess"

Reading:

Kannen, Chapter 5: Excessive Bodies: Modified and (Un)Natural Freaks

Tuesday – March 22nd, 2022 – Lecture posted

Thursday – March 24th, 2022 – Class Discussion (*5% option)

Week 11: Body 2.0

Reading:

Braunberger, C. (2000). Revolting Bodies: The Monster Beauty of Tattooed Women. *NWSA Journal*. Vol. 12(2). pgs. 1-23.

Tuesday – March 29th, 2022 – Lecture posted

Thursday – March 31st, 2022 - In class activity 10%

Week 12: Body Stories

Reading:

Kannen, Chapter 6: Bodies and Their Stories

Tuesday – April 5th, 2022 – Lecture posted

Thursday – April 7th, 2022 – Take Home Exam Workshop

Take Home Exam DUE April 14th, 2022.

Looking forward to a great term together!