

Sociology 5651FA/SJ 5011FB/WS 4011- FA

**Sociology of the Body
Fall 2017**

Mondays 2:30 – 5:30 p.m. RB 3044

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Office Hours (RB 2021) Mondays – 11:30 – 1:00 p.m. or by appointment

Course Aims and Overview

Global demographic shifts of the late 20th and early 21st centuries, in combination with transitions in consumer and pop culture, social media, and the human/bio/technological interface, have led to an increasing degree of interest in, and uncertainty about, the borders and boundaries of individual, social and political bodies in our post/modern world.

The aim of this course will be to introduce students to diverse social science theories and approaches to ‘the body’ through a close reading of key texts in the field. A review of topical case studies will allow us to explore the links between specific theories of the body and the processes and experiences of embodiment in everyday life. Seminar discussion will focus around such themes as subjectivity and identity; domination, resistance and vulnerable bodies; visualizing and negotiating labouring bodies in time and place; and the movement of contemporary bodies, body parts and body traces in the global medical arena.

Evaluation

Evaluation will be based on a combination of written work and seminar participation. Students are expected to do assigned readings prior to each week’s class and come prepared with discussion points for the seminar. Where relevant you are encouraged to also bring examples from contemporary news/events/social media/pop culture which link to our weekly theme. Class participation marks will be based on a combination of your attendance, your preparedness for class and your active participation and active listening in our weekly sessions.

Written evaluation components of the course include:

Summaries of weekly assigned readings (3 pages, double-spaced)	
- 3 weeks X 10 marks each, due at beginning of class	30%
Weekly class participation	20%
Seminar co-lead (teams of 2)	20%
Major project (research paper, presentation or creative project)	30%

Required Texts

Davidson, Deborah, ed. (2016) *The Tattoo Project. Commemorative Tattoos, Visual Culture, and The Digital Archive*. Toronto: Canadian Scholars Press.

Additional readings (as noted on the weekly outline below) are available to download as pdfs from the course D2L, or available through the LU library website.

Course Website - D2L

A D2L (Desire 2 Learn) site has been set up for this course and will be used as a repository for course materials, optional readings, web links and announcements of interest. Please ensure that you have access to the Web site (through your MyInfo page) and check it regularly for class announcements and information. Also please send along any postings you think would be of interest for your classmates. Please email links or news postings to me at: pam.wakewich@lakeheadu.ca

Academic dishonesty and plagiarism:

The University takes a most serious view of offences against academic honesty such as plagiarism, cheating and impersonation. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to: paraphrasing of an author without citing them; directly reproducing an author without citing them; the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained; improper collaboration in group work; copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations. The minimum penalty for a candidate found guilty of plagiarism, or of cheating on any part of a course will be a zero for the work concerned. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct and regulations regarding academic dishonesty: <http://calendar.lakeheadu.ca/current/contents/regulations/univregsIXacdishon.html>

Weekly Reading Schedule:

Week 1 (Sept. 11): Introductions and overview

Week 2 (Sept. 18): Bodies in a Social Landscape

Readings:

Davidson, D. (2016) Chapters 1 and 2.

Turner, T. (1980) "The Social Skin." In J. Chermans and R. Lewin, eds. *Not Work Alone*. Beverly Hills: Sage, pp. 112-140 [pdf on D2L].

Week 3 (Sept 25): Bringing the Body back into Social Theory

Readings:

Davidson, D. (2016) Chapter 3.

Howson, A. (2012) Chapter 3 "The Civilized Body" [pdf on D2L].

Davis, Kathy (1997) "Embody-ing Theory: Beyond Modernist and Postmodernist Readings of the Body." In Davis, K., ed. *Embodied Practices: Feminist Perspectives on the Body*. London: Sage, pp. 1-26 [pdf on D2L].

Week 4 (Oct. 2): *Transcending Binarisms and Negotiating "The Social Skin"*

Readings:

Cavanagh and Sykes (2006), "Transsexual Bodies at the Olympics: The International Olympic Committee's Policy on Transsexual Athletes at the 2004 Athens Summer Games, *Body & Society* 12(3):75-102 [E-Journal].

Davidson, D. (2016) Chapters 4 and 6.

Kvigne, K. (2014) Masculinity and Strokes: The Challenges Presented to Younger Men by Chronic Illness. *Journal of Gender Studies* 23(2):197-210 [E-Journal].

Week 5 (Oct. 9): *Fall Break – no class*

Week 6 (Oct. 16): *Labouring Bodies in Time and Place*

Readings:

Margolis, Eric (2004) "Looking at discipline, looking at labour: photographic representations of Indian boarding schools." *Visual Studies* vol. 19(1):72-96 [E-Journal].

Smith, Helen and Pamela Wakewich (2013) "Trans/Forming the Citizen Body in Wartime: National and Local Public Discourse on Women's Bodies and "Body Work" for women during the Second World War." In Patrizia Gentile and Jane Nicholas (eds.) *Contesting Bodies and Nation in Canadian History*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, pp. 305-327 [pdf on D2L].

Wolkowitz, C. "Customer Services," in *Bodies at Work*, London: Sage, pp. [pdf on D2L].

Optional:

Davidson, D. (2016) Chapter 8.

Week 7 (Oct. 23): *Subjectivity, domination and reclamation – vulnerable bodies*

Readings:

Davidson, D. (2016) Chapter 4 and 13.

Poudrier, J. and J. Kennedy (2008) "Embodiment and the Meaning of the "Healthy" Body" *Journal of Aboriginal Health* (January):15-24 [E-Journal].

Week 7 (Oct 30): *Negotiating Classed, Charitable and Transnational Bodies in Sport*

Readings:

Hayhurst, L (2014) The 'Girl Effect' and Martial Arts: Social Entrepreneurship, and Sport, Gender and Development in Uganda. *Gender, Place and Culture* 21(3):297-315 [E-Journal].

Nettleton, S. and M. Hardey (2006) "Running Away with Health: The Urban Marathon and the Construction of Charitable Bodies" *Health* 10(4):441-460 [E-Journal].

Wacquant, L.J. (1994) "Pugs at Work: Bodily Capital and Bodily Labour among Professional Boxers." *Body & Society* 1(1):65-94 [pdf on D2L].

Week 8 (Nov. 3): Imaging and imagining the body in science, medicine and biotechnology

Readings:

Kruger, E., S. Magnet and J. Van Loon (2008) "Biometric Revisions of the 'Body' in Airports and US Welfare Reform." *Body & Society* 14(2):99-12 [E-Journal].

Hirschauer, Stefan (2006) "Animated Corpses: Communicating with Post Mortals in an Anatomical Exhibition." *Body & Society* 12(4):25-52 [E-Journal].

Waldby, Catherine (1997) "The Body and the Digital Archive: the Visible Human Project and the Computerization of Medicine." *Health* 1(2):227-244 [E-Journal].

Week 9 (Nov 10): The Body in Consumer and Pop Culture

Readings:

Howson, A. "Chapter 4. The Body in Consumer Culture" [pdf on D2L].

Webb, Jen and San Brynand (2008) "Some Kind of Virus: The Zombie as Body and as Trope." *Body & Society* 14(2):83-98 [E-Journal].

Video links to view on the D2L.

Week 10 (Nov 17): Bodies and Body Traces in the Global Market

Readings:

Wilson, Ara (2011) "Foreign Bodies and National Scales: Medical Tourism in Thailand." *Body & Society* 17 (2&3):121-137 [E-Journal].

Ticktin, Miriam (2011) "How Biology Travels: A Humanitarian Trip." *Body and Society* 17 (2&3):39-158 [E-Journal].

Russell, Amy M. (2013) "Embodiment and Abjection: Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation." *Body & Society* 19 (1):82-107 [E-Journal].

Week 11 (Nov 24): Commemorative Bodies: The Tattoo Project

Davidson, D. (2016) Chapters 6, 16, and 19

Week 12 (Dec. 4): Course summary