Soci 5651 - FA Sociology of the Body
Time: Mon 14:30-17:30
Location: RB 3023

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Office hours: T/Th: 14:30-15:30

Course Aims and Overview
Interest in ‘the body’ as a focal area of study in the social sciences has been fostered by the foundational work of theorists Michel Foucault, Pierre Bourdieu, Bryan Turner, Terence Turner, Kathy Davis, Margaret Lock, Raewyn Connell and Judith Butler to name just a few. 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 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 sociological 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 the core themes of 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 (2 pages, double-spaced)
- 5 weeks X 5 marks each, due at beginning of class 25%
Weekly class participation 20%
Final roundtable presentation and written summary (10 minutes -2 pages) 15%
Major research paper (10-12 pages) due December 8 by 4 p.m. 40%
Required Texts
Additional assigned readings are available to download as pdfs from the Ejournals section of the LU library website or, where noted on the course syllabus.

Course Website – D2L
A D2L (Desire 2 Learn) site has been set up for this course and will be used 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. 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](http://calendar.lakeheadu.ca/current/contents/regulations/univregsIXacdishon.html)

Weekly Reading Schedule:

**Week 1 (Sept. 8): Introductions and overview**

**Week 2 (Sept. 13): Bodies in a Social Landscape**

Readings:

**Week 3 (Sept 22): Bringing the Body back into Social Theory**

Readings:

**Week 4 (Sept 29): Body, subjectivity and domination - constituting gender**

Readings:

**Week 5 (Oct. 6): Negotiating the Labouring Body in Time and Place**

Readings:
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 [available to copy from instructor];
Wolkowitz, C. “Customer Services,” in *Bodies at Work*, London: Sage, pp. (available from instructor);

**Week 6 (Oct. 13): Thanksgiving - NO CLASS**

**Week 7 (Oct 20): Subjectivity and domination - vulnerable bodies**;

Readings:
Howson, A. “Chapter 6 “Vulnerable Bodies”;

**Week 7 (Oct 27): Subjectivity and domination - classed bodies**

Readings:

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

Readings:

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

Readings:
Howson, A. “Chapter 4. The Body in Consumer Culture”;

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

Readings:

**Week 11 (Nov 24): Self review and prep for Summary roundtable**

**Week 12 (Dec. 1): Summary roundtable and course review**

Williams, S.J. (2006) “Medical Sociology and the Biological Body: Where are We Now and Where Do We Go from Here.” Health 10(1):5-30; and TBA.