

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND WOMEN'S STUDIES
GSWS 2162B: The Body
Winter 2023

Instructor: Dr. Cornel Grey (he/him)
Class Time: Wednesdays, 4:30 PM-7:30 PM
Email: cgrey6@uwo.ca
Office Hours: TBD

Teaching Assistants: TBD
Office Hours: TBD
Emails: TBD

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Western University is situated on the traditional land of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lenape and Attawandaron peoples who have longstanding relationships to the region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London. In close proximity to Western, there are 3 local First Nations communities: the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. In the region of southwestern Ontario, there are 9 First Nations and a growing Indigenous urban population. Western recognizes the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America) to the development of Canada.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the body as a unit of analysis in feminist scholarship. Framed as a series of case studies, we will consider how select figures have been racialized, gendered and sexualized in public discourse. How are the bodies of subjects constructed in popular media? How is the body mobilized in research? By whom is the body read and for what purpose? We will discuss how the bodies of individuals are taken up in biomedical, legal, and political discourse, and reflect on how we may engage the lives and stories of these individuals in an ethical manner. We will also explore bodies as points of entry for analyses of colonialism, white supremacy, capitalism, and heteropatriarchy.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain how discourse shapes our understanding of bodies as (un)desirable, dangerous, unruly, monstrous and/or worthy of care
- Critically analyze how bodies are (re)presented in popular media
- Account for citational practices in feminist scholarship
- Demonstrate an understanding of the body as mediated by constructions of race, gender, sexuality, dis/ability
- Discuss the meaning of the body in different disciplines and how bodies are mobilized in as a tool by thinkers in these fields

ASSESSMENTS

1. **Highlight Reel (15%), October 19**

In consultation with the instructor, students will select a public figure who will be the subject of their final assignment. Students will conduct a preliminary review of popular media that focuses on the person they have selected. Students must then submit 750-1000 word reflection that considers a series of prompts (to be posted on the OWL website). Students' answers to these prompts will help to guide the development of their final paper.

2. **Midterm (25%), February 15**

This in-class text will be composed of short-answer questions and essay-type questions based on assigned readings and lectures.

3. **Final Paper (30%), November 23**

Students will submit an essay that draws on scholarly texts to contextualize their findings and reflections in their first assignment (1200-1500 words). Further details will be provided on the OWL website.

4. **Final Examination (30%), (during April exam period)**

This exam will be scheduled during the exam period by the Office of the Registrar. The exam will draw on key themes and concepts. The exam will be composed of long-answer questions and an essay.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE, January 11- Introductions

WEEK TWO, January 18-Making Bodies

WEEK THREE, January 25- The Body as 'Excess' (Sara(h)/Saartjie Baartman)

WEEK FOUR, February 1-The Body on Trial (Pamela George)

WEEK FIVE, February 8- The Body, Regulated (Leilani Muir)

WEEK SIX, February 15- MIDTERM

READING WEEK (February 22)

WEEK SEVEN, March 1- Guest Lecture

WEEK EIGHT, March 8- The Body, Medicalized (Caster Semenya)

WEEK NINE, March 15-The Body as 'Vector' (Charles Ssenyonga)

WEEK TEN, March 22- The Body Rendered Illegible (Shadi Petosky)

WEEK ELEVEN, March 29-The Body Breaks a Binary (Thomas Beatie)

WEEK TWELVE, April 5-The 'Unbelievable' Body (Suaad Hagi Mohamud)